

## What is risk assessment and what benefits will it bring?

Risk assessment is a condition check for your private water supply. It means looking at the source of the supply and the surrounding area to see what could go wrong with it and contaminate the supply. It also involves checking the storage tanks, any treatment systems and the pipework.

While sampling can suggest what impurities may occur, risk assessment sets out to identify the actual or potential causes. That way suitable actions can be taken to sort them out and therefore prevent the situation from getting worse or even starting in the first place.

It would also be too expensive to sample for every possible impurity that may be present in your drinking water all the time.

Risk assessment will highlight areas associated with your private water supply that could benefit from improvements to ensure that the quality of the drinking water is as good as it possibly can be.

These areas might be at the source of the supply, or as part of the network of pipes or tanks that bring the water to your home or business or inside the building where you live or work.



Private Water Supplies

Risk assessment will bring benefits such as a better knowledge of your private water supply system and improved drinking water quality for you, your family and visitors to your home or business.

- An easy-to-do risk assessment is provided as part of this Information Guide. It will give you an understanding of the sort of things that are being looked for as part of the full risk assessment process.
- For a full risk assessment you will need the help of a suitably qualified and experienced professional. Your local environmental health service will have staff who can arrange to undertake a full risk assessment or to assist you in completing one yourself. Details of your local environmental health service can be found on the back cover of this Information Guide or in your local telephone book.



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