

Non-drinking water supply



Your water is not safe to drink

The water we supply to your property is **not** disinfected and is **not** intended for human consumption. This includes drinking, food preparation and cleaning teeth. You also need to avoid activities where ingestion may be possible such as bathing or showering. You can still use the water for household activities, such as watering gardens, flushing toilets, irrigation and laundry purposes.

Who is supplied with non-drinking water?

We supply non-drinking water to customers who live close to areas where water is harvested and where there is infrastructure such as pipelines. The water supplied directly from these pipes has not yet been disinfected and made safe to drink.

Non-drinking water customers typically live in small rural towns or rural areas remote from population centres.

The water does not necessarily meet the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. There is no protection against disease-causing organisms that may contaminate the water.

Untreated water can contain pathogens

Water that has not been treated can contain pathogens such as bacteria (E-coli, Salmonella and Campylobacter), viruses (Hepatitis A) and protozoa (Cryptosporidium and Giardia).

These micro-organisms are not visible to the naked eye and may be present in water that appears to be clear.

What if I consume the water?

Water contaminated with these micro-organisms can cause severe gastroenteritis.

Drinking untreated water can lead to illnesses such as gastroenteritis and diarrhoea.

DO NOT USE ❌



Drinking



Food preparation



Cleaning teeth



Bathing or showering

OKAY TO USE ✅



Watering gardens



Flushing toilets



Irrigation



Laundry

You might notice a chlorine smell in your non-drinking water. It's added into the system to minimise the growth of weeds and algae, but it does not adequately disinfect pathogens that might contaminate the water. It does not indicate the water is safe to drink.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER.

Your water is not safe to drink

Living with an untreated water supply

What you need to do

- Disconnect non-drinking water supplies to areas which may otherwise encourage ingestion or hygiene activities e.g. kitchen taps, bathroom taps, drinking fountains, bubble taps.
- Ensure there is no cross-connections between a non-drinking water supply and your drinking water source.
- Let visitors to your home or business know not to ingest the non-drinking water.
- Landlords should notify tenants that non-drinking water is not suitable for drinking, bathing, food preparation or other forms of consumption. Please contact us if you need additional warning notices.
- Managers of accommodation facilities should notify their guests that the non-drinking water supply is **NOT** suitable for drinking, food preparation or other forms of consumption. Please contact us if you need additional warning notices.
- Customers who provide a water supply to others via syndicates or cooperatives should notify their members that the non-drinking water is not suitable for drinking, food preparation or other forms of consumption. Please contact us if you need additional warning notices.
- Managers of facilities where non-drinking water taps are accessible to the public should erect signs advising that the water is not suitable for drinking, food preparation or other forms of consumption.

Examples of facilities where taps may be accessible to the public include roadside picnic stops, churches, public halls, schools, sporting venues, public gardens and standpipes.

- The water supply **MUST NOT** be used by a customer/visitor for drinking, food preparation or any other forms of consumption.
- **Please contact us to obtain stickers stating:**
Non-drinking water: NOT suitable for drinking, food preparation or other forms of consumption.

What you can use non-drinking water for

- Toilet flushing*.
- Laundry use*.
- Garden use (subject to the Permanent Water Saving Measures and any restrictions that may be in force in your area).
- As a water source for stock and domestic animals.

*** Please note: At times, elevated levels of colour and odour may make it unsuitable for these household uses.**

Further information

Please contact us on 1300 926 666 between the hours of 8.15am and 5pm Monday to Friday or email us at info@wannonwater.com.au

