



**CHOICE** **Health**

**How safe is your tap water?  
Do you have your own supply?**

[Where things can go wrong](#)

If you're not connected to town water, but use rain or bore water, it's important to protect your supply from contamination -- particularly with bore water -- and inspect it regularly.

[Chemicals, coliforms and other contaminants](#)

For example, an animal carcass in the catchment area of your bore can be a serious health threat, and herbicides or fertilisers may over time leach into your water supply. A dirty roof, peeling paint or bird droppings can affect the quality of collected rainwater. Many water authorities or your local health department have brochures on what to look for in a storage tank, and how to maintain it properly.

[Do you have your own supply?](#)

Have your water supply tested regularly -- contact your local or state health department. It may check the water body you're drawing from as part of its own monitoring program, or it can test your water -- in many cases free of charge if you have a health concern. It'll also be able to advise you on how to rectify a problem.

[Water treatment](#)

As a last resort you may want to consider buying a water filter -- see [Water filter profiles](#) to find out which type you need.

[CHOICE water survey](#)

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[What's the problem?](#)

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