

# Whitegoods



## What are the water fittings regulations/byelaws?

These national regulations protect drinking water by ensuring plumbing systems are designed, installed and used safely.

The information provided in this leaflet will help installers, as well as those responsible for, and using, whitegoods with a mains water supply comply.



## When do they apply to whitegoods?

If an appliance has any form of mains water supply the regulations/byelaws apply.

## How do you comply?

1. Ensure the appliance is of an appropriate quality and standard for installation, advice can be found [here](#)
2. To prevent fluids in the equipment contaminating drinking water supplies install the correct level of backflow protection.
3. In the case of non-domestic premises ensure the installation is safe by notifying the [local water undertaker](#) at least 10 working days before the appliance is installed, advice can be found [here](#)

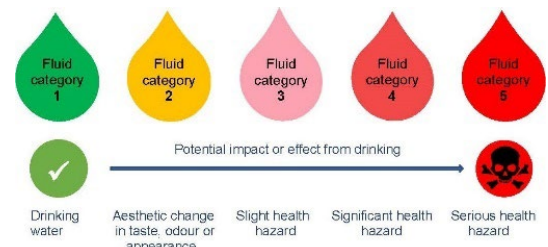


For further information please refer to the Water Reg UK website [www.waterregsuk.co.uk](http://www.waterregsuk.co.uk).

## What is backflow protection?

Backflow occurs when fluid in a plumbing system flows in the opposite to the intended or normal direction of flow. The regulations/byelaws classify backflow risks by fluid categories or risks to health. Backflow is not theoretical rather an ever present threat to people's health.

To prevent backflow a barrier (backflow protection) which stops contaminated fluid flowing backwards is needed. The regulations/byelaws identify several different backflow prevention arrangements and devices, each having a rating based on fluid category and type of backflow.



## What level of backflow protection is required?



The risk posed by appliances is dependent upon several factors including how and for what purpose the water is used. This means the same appliance installed in different locations maybe categorised differently. Some but not all appliances incorporate backflow protection which satisfies UK requirements, conformity with BS EN 61770 does not. If the backflow protection built in is not adequate the appliance must be supplied via an independent appropriate form of backflow protection. This is why it is so important to check an appliance is of an appropriate quality and standard and where applicable provide notification.

Notification is a simple and essential check to help minimise the contamination risks to water supplies within premises as well as beyond, and to help prevent waste of water.

Appliances used in domestic premises are typically considered a fluid category 3 risk, those in non-domestic premises a higher risk. This is why domestic appliances are often not suitable for use in these properties unless supplied via a separate form of backflow prevention offering a higher degree of protection.

Following a site specific assessment, the local water undertaker may subject to conditions permit more than one appliance to be supplied via the same arrangement. Another reason to take advantage of the notification check.

Some examples of fluid category categorisation are given opposite. Please note this list is for information only and cannot be wholly relied upon.

Dishwasher/ washing machine (domestic)	3
Dishwasher/ washing machine (high risk location)	5
Dishwasher/ washing machine (other)	4
Glass washer	3
Coffee machine	3
Fridge freezer – chilled water	2

## Water quality

The hoses supplying appliances are often found to be the cause of chlorine or metallic tasting water. To prevent this from happening hoses should conform with [BS 6920](#), alternatively a check valve can be installed. A double check valve should both address this issue and, as long as the appliance is categorised no greater than a fluid category 3 risk, provide backflow protection for the appliance too.

## Checklist

- ✓ **Is the appliance of an appropriate quality and standard?**  
Check with the manufacturer or supplier to ensure the appliance complies with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations, byelaws in Scotland. Don't forget backflow prevention arrangements have to provide the correct level of protection as well as being of an appropriate quality and standard.
- ✓ **Is all the necessary paperwork in place?**  
If your property was inspected by the local water undertaker, you may be asked several questions about your appliances. To help answer these it is recommended manuals and manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions be retained. If applicable letter of consent from the local water undertaker and any certificates of compliance issued by an approved contractor should also be kept.
- ✓ **Has the right level of backflow protection been installed?**  
As part of their check the local water undertaker will confirm the level of risk associated with catering equipment and highlight any suitability issues associated with the proposed form of backflow protection.  
Don't forget whitegoods conforming with BS EN 61770 do not satisfy UK requirements, so always check with the local water undertaker.

