

Darlington 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 and laundry purposes.

Warning to customers

The non-drinking water we supply to customers in Darlington is sourced from a local groundwater bore.

The water may contain levels of arsenic, lead and or micro-organisms higher than the levels in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The water is not treated. This means there is no protection against disease-causing organisms that could contaminate the water. There is also no control over the concentration of arsenic that occurs naturally in the bore water.

Non-drinking water is also sometimes referred to as non-potable water, untreated water, raw water and, in the case of Darlington, regulated 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 present in water that appears to be clear.

What you need to do:

- Make sure there are **no cross-connections** between the 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 or food preparation.
- 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 include roadside picnic stops, public halls, sporting venues, and standpipes.

DO NOT USE



Drinking



Food preparation



Cleaning teeth



Bathing or showering

OKAY TO USE ✓



Watering gardens



Flushing toilets



Stock and domestic animals



Laundry

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What would happen if I consumed the water?

Drinking untreated water that is contaminated with micro-organisms can lead to illnesses such as gastroenteritis and diarrhoea.

Water quality parameter	How these parameters impact on the use of water
<i>Escherichia Coli (E. coli)</i> bacteria	Drinking untreated water that is contaminated with micro-organisms can lead to illnesses such as gastroenteritis and diarrhoea. These micro-organisms are not visible to the naked eye and may be present in water that appears to be clear.
Arsenic	Drinking water with arsenic levels in excess of the Australian Drinking Water guidelines (greater than 0.01 mg/L) may have an impact on your health in the long term.
Lead	Drinking water with lead levels in excess of the Australian Drinking Water guidelines (greater than 0.01 mg/L) may have an impact on your health in the long term.
Manganese and Iron	Iron and Manganese can stain plumbing fixtures and laundry and they colour the water.
Hardness	Darlington's water is considered to be very hard which can result in scale forming on hot water pipes and fittings.
Salts	Darlington's water quality averages 2880 mg/L total dissolved solids – which is a measure of salt or salinity. Water at this level is suitable only for use on salt-tolerant plants.

What you can use non-drinking water for:

- **Toilet flushing** - Note that high manganese and iron levels may result in staining of the toilet bowl.
- **Laundry use** - Note that high manganese and iron levels may cause laundry to stain. The hardness of the water may also result in the scaling of hot water pipes.
- **Garden use** - Note that consideration needs to be given to the salt tolerance of the plants and lawn areas being watered.
- **Water source for stock and domestic animals.**

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

