Drinking Water Quality in Private Supplies 2018

Almost 20% of Ireland’s population is supplied by private water supplies, including household wells.

Water quality in regulated private water supplies is consistently poorer than public water supplies.

- 99.9% E.coli compliance in Public water supplies
- 100% in Public group schemes
- 95.4% in Private group schemes
- 95.4% in Small private supplies

Protecting private supplies:

Step 1: Check your source

- Is your wellhead sealed?
- Can surface water get into the well?
- Can animals get into the river, stream or spring?

Step 2: Check for any sources of pollution

- Septic tanks
- Slurry landspending
- Chemical storage
- Fuel storage tanks

Step 3: Test the supply annually ideally following wet weather (treatment may be necessary if contaminated)

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