

# Urinals



## What are the water fittings regulations/byelaws?

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

The information provided in this leaflet highlights backflow risk and how to minimise waste.

## When do they apply to urinals?

If a urinal has any form of mains water supply the regulations/byelaws apply.

Please note water undertakers can also take enforcement action to address contamination and waste using different legislation.



## How do you comply?

1. Ensure the urinal flushing arrangement and backflow protection are of an appropriate quality and standard, plus are suitable using no more water than is needed or permitted to clean the urinal.
2. Confirm the urinal installation is safe by notifying the local water undertaker at least 10 working days before the equipment is installed
3. Preventing contamination of drinking water supplies by installing the correct level of backflow protection.

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

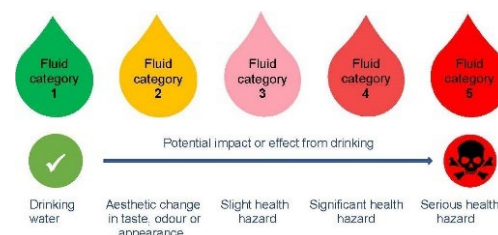


Notification is a simple and essential check to help minimise the contamination risks to water supplies within premises as well as beyond, and to help prevent waste of water. Advanced notification of the installation of a urinal, is always required unless there is an exemption for work undertaken by an approved contractor. In all circumstances notification is recommended.

## What is backflow?

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.



## What is backflow Protection?

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.

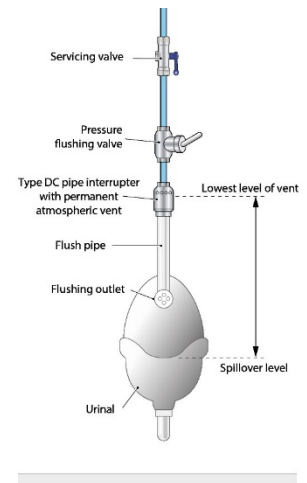
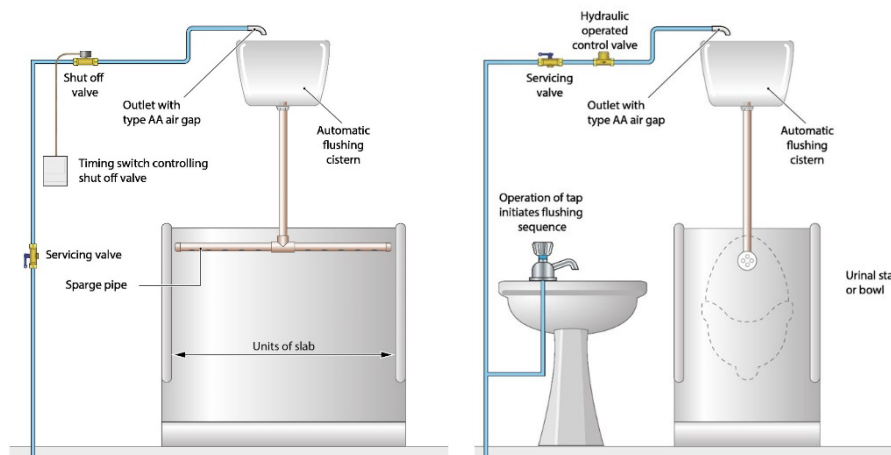
## What level of backflow risk is a urinal?

A urinal is considered to be a fluid category 5 risk.

## Fluid category 5 backflow protection arrangements

There are two accepted ways to flush urinals:

1. Using a pressure flushing valve fitted with a Type DC device installed in accordance with the requirements of schedule 2 paragraph 25(1)(c) in the relevant legislation in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
2. Using a flushing cistern supplied via an appropriate form of fluid category 5 backflow protection. Typically, a Type AA airgap.



## Preventing waste

The regulations/byelaws set maximum flush volumes. Using no more water than is needed or permitted to clean a urinal will help to limit waste. Hygienic flushing arrangements are only permitted with the agreement of the local water undertaker.

## Checklist



### Can the urinal be installed?

Check with your local water undertakers to confirm the proposed urinal installation will be compliant.



### Is all the necessary paperwork in place?

If your property was inspected by the local water undertaker, you may be asked several questions about the urinal installation. To help answer these it is recommended a technical file be maintained on site. This should include the letter of consent from the local water undertaker, any certificates of compliance issued by an approved contractor and the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions.



### How much water is being used to clean the urinal

Make sure the urinal uses no more water than is needed or permitted. This will help to limit waste and where usage is metered could save money.



### Has the right level of backflow protection been installed?

As part of their check the local water undertaker will confirm any suitability issues associated with the proposed form of backflow protection.

Don't forget backflow protection arrangements not only need to be suitable but also of an appropriate quality and standard. **To keep those using the premises and the wider community safe, always check with the local water undertaker that the backflow arrangement meets UK requirements. Please not although some flushing arrangements have to be UKCA or UKNI/CE marked this certification does not include backflow protection.**