

# Guernsey Water Advice Sheet

## Winter Care of Plumbing Systems & Oil Tanks GuernseyWater

### When temperatures start to drop

As temperatures begin to drop, it is important to make sure that **internal and external pipework and taps are lagged in order to prevent any cold-related problems**. Even wrapping a towel or rag around a garden tap will go some way to preventing the water freezing and expanding.



Customers should also **turn off their internal stop-tap if they are intending to leave their properties for a few days or more** - this will prevent any possibility of serious flooding, which could potentially occur if the temperature gets too low.

Guernsey Water also advises customers to leave their central heating on low if they are planning to be away from their property for a short period of time, to prevent problems.

### Oil tank care

Customers with domestic oil tanks on their property should make sure that **rainwater is drained from the catchment pits on a regular basis**.

**Catchment pits are a legal requirement for all single-skinned oil tanks**, and it is vital that suitable steps are taken to ensure that the effective capacity of the pit is not reduced by the accumulation of rainwater, as this could result in oil spillages which are detrimental to the environment. Leaves and other debris should also be removed from the pit.

Rainwater should be removed from pits by either using a manually operating pump or a siphon tube. We do not allow the use of unmanned electric pumps as their use could lead to oil being pumped out of the pit and onto the ground.

Any spillage of oil should be reported immediately to Guernsey Water, as it can quickly get into the water supply. The hydrocarbons in oil are hard for us to remove through the water treatment process and they can impair the quality of water in customer pipes.

Causing or knowingly permitting pollution of Guernsey's watercourses within the Water Catchment Area is an offence under the Prevention of Pollution (Guernsey) Law, 1989.



**TO REPORT ANY POLLUTION OR SUSPECTED POLLUTION, PLEASE CALL US IMMEDIATELY ON 239500 (24 HOUR NUMBER)**

Failure to comply with any of the conditions set out by Guernsey Water in this leaflet (or in any other official document) may lead to prosecution.

**. Tel: (01481) 239500 . Email: [customer.service@water.gg](mailto:customer.service@water.gg) . Web: [www.water.gg](http://www.water.gg) .**

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