

With a growing pressure to reduce reliance on plastics, Guernsey Water are being approached more frequently on the logistics of installing refill stations for the provision of free tap water top ups by the general public.

The installation of a refill station reflects positively on those who install them, showing an investment in the environment and our island community. This guidance has been drawn up to provide information to those wishing to install stations on their property.



Considerations for private installations

- It is important to consider a number of logistical points ahead of carrying out the installation of any permanent refill station, this includes factors which may affect the installation itself as well as taking into account ongoing maintenance and testing required to ensure the continued supply of water that is safe and good to drink.
- Does the site's existing plumbing comply with the Water Byelaws (Guernsey) Ordinance? These byelaws are in place to ensure that drinking water quality across the island is not compromised by substandard plumbing in both domestic and commercial properties. Ensuring the site is compliant ahead of installation will help protect public health. If you are unsure on the compliance of your building, please contact Guernsey Water who will be able to provide an inspection ahead of your installation.
- Do you know where your plumbing runs on the site? Knowing the layout in terms of pipework on your site will enable you to make a more efficient and cost effective choice when selecting the position of your refill station, if an appropriate feed exists in a specific location, plumbing works required will be reduced in comparison to a location where no feed currently lies.
- Is your proposed station WRAS approved? Using WRAS (Water Regulations Advisory Scheme) approved equipment ensures that your station will be meeting standards laid out by UK water regulations and byelaws.

- Do you own the proposed location? If not you will need to obtain building or site owners permission ahead of any installation.
- Is planning permission required? In some instances planning permission may be required ahead of the installation of a Refill station. We advise speaking directly with the planning department in order to ascertain whether an application is required for submission.
- Know your water pressure, this could be an important factor when selecting the station itself. Certain stations may only operate within certain pressure parameters, or may require the installation of a pressure reducing valve. If you need to have your pressure checked, please contact a plumber.
- Ongoing maintenance and testing. Station tests should be carried out regularly to check water quality. Guernsey Water tests its stations once a week for 6 months and once a month thereafter. Testing can be carried out for a small charge by the States Analytical laboratory (227612). If your station has a filter, it is important to ensure it is changed whenever required and at least as frequently as manufacturer's instructions. Many machines will alert you to the need of a replacement filter, but always check this is a feature before relying on it!

Regular cleaning is important to ensure the station remains safe to use. Manufacturer's guidelines should advise you on the best methods of cleaning.

Please contact Guernsey Water during the planning or installation of the refill station to ensure byelaw compliance.

■ How can we help you?

Guernsey Water can help with a private installation in a number of ways as listed below.

- Carrying out a site inspection to ensure plumbing is compliant with Guernsey's water byelaws
- Sharing the details of our water testing
- Celebrating your installation.