

How to avoid chemical contamination of your water supply

Fact Sheet

Household Plumbing

For new or re-plumbed houses, the service line from the water meter to your house may be made from polyethylene (polypipe). These pipes meet the Australian standard, and have a number of advantages including lower cost, ease of installation, and prevention of corrosion. However, some chemicals can enter your water supply if spilled or disposed of on or around these pipes.

Chemical Contamination

Some chemicals, when spilled or disposed onto the soil can pass through the drinking water pipe, and enter your household water supply. These include:

- Petrol and oils (including two-stroke mix and motor oil)
- Methylated spirits, turpentine and kerosene
- Paint thinners and acrylic paints
- Some herbicides and pesticides
- Other organic solvents

My water smells like petrol

If the drinking water coming out of your taps smells like petrol, or any other solvent or pesticide, **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER**. Immediately call Logan City Council on (07) 3412 3412. We will send an officer to investigate and will do what we can to assist you determine the cause of the problem.

Check with your neighbours to see if they have the same problem. If they are affected, advise them not to drink the water.

Fixing the problem

Logan City Council will help determine the location of the contamination, and will fix the problem if the source of contamination is on Council's side of your water meter.

However, where the source of contamination is on the property or after the water meter, it is your (the landlord/ or home owner's) responsibility to correct the problem. If this is the case, you will need to engage a licenced plumber as soon as possible to restore your service. At a minimum, it is likely that they will need to excavate to remove the

contaminated soil, and remove and replace the service line. More extensive re-plumbing may also be required to ensure your drinking water is safe. This can be a very expensive problem to resolve.

Avoiding the Problem

Always dispose of chemicals correctly and safely. Logan City Council has regular household paint and chemical drop off days where you can dispose of a variety of hazardous wastes and chemicals. For the next scheduled drop off days, see:

<http://www.logan.qld.gov.au/environment-water-and-waste/waste-and-recycling/household-paint-and-chemical-drop-off-days>

For more information

Phone **3412 3412**

Visit **www.logan.qld.gov.au**

Email **council@logan.qld.gov.au**

