



Restricted Water Supply Schemes

Another useful tip is to have your main water outlet halfway up your tank and a reserve valve near the bottom. This means your tank can only drain halfway if you accidentally leave a tap turned on or a pipe bursts. After fixing the problem, you can turn on the valve to draw from the water reserve while waiting for the tank to refill.

If you don't have a float or halfway outlet, you can get these retrospectively fitted.

Maintenance

It's important to keep the water in your tank turning over and to inspect, clean and maintain the tank regularly to prevent harmful bacteria or algae from growing. This can be a hazardous task, so it's a good idea to have a professional look after your tank. You should also inspect your overflow pipe regularly to make sure it's clear of vegetation or other debris.

For more information

You can find out more about water schemes, the Water Bylaw, and the NZ Fire Service Firefighting Water Supplies Code of Practice at www.dunedin.govt.nz/watersupply.

If you have any questions, please call us on 03 477 4000 or email water.services@dcc.govt.nz.

Your property is connected to a restricted water supply scheme. Restricted schemes are used in some communities to make sure everyone has fair access to water at a reasonable cost. Most households receive 1000 litres (1 unit) per day, but extra water units can be purchased subject to availability.

This flyer tells you how your system should be set up to provide a good water supply to your household.

Flow restrictor

The Dunedin City Council installs a flow restrictor to make sure the right amount of water is delivered each day and that your neighbours receive their fair share as well. **You must not remove or modify your water restrictor in any way.** The DCC checks restrictors regularly.

Water tank

Because restricted schemes deliver water at very low flow rates, you need a tank to store water for use and allow for higher flows at your taps. You shouldn't have any connections between the DCC supply pipe and your water tank. All household plumbing and outdoor taps should be supplied from your water tank.

For any new water tanks or alterations to an existing tank, you may need building consent depending on the tank's size and height above ground.

Volume

A roof header tank is not sufficient for a house supply. Your tank should be big enough to hold at least two days' water – for most households, the tank should be around 2m³–5m³. You may like to consider installing a larger tank if you think you need more water.

Because the pipes that supply restricted schemes are small, they usually don't have enough capacity to accommodate the flows needed for fire-fighting. To accommodate fire-fighting needs, the New Zealand Fire Service recommends a tank of at least 45m³ and an adjacent hardstand area with suitable fire engine access.

Protection

Your tank should be watertight to prevent contaminants (such as animal droppings) getting in. The lid should be well-fitted and any vents or outlets should have intact insect screens securely attached.

In the cooler months, make sure the external pipes supplying your tank are protected from frost.

Water pressure

To make sure your house has adequate water pressure, you may choose to raise your water tank, use a header tank or install a pump.

Backflow prevention

It's important to protect public health by preventing the flow of water (and possible contaminants) back into the water supply. To prevent backflow, your tank must have an air gap between the service pipe inlet and the overflow pipe. The gap should be 25mm or twice the diameter of the service pipe (whichever is greater).

The DCC prevents backflow from household connections by maintaining a check valve in the boundary manifold (blue box) and the restrictor also minimises the risk of backflow. Modifying or removing these devices is an offence under our bylaw.

Other tips

Many people install a float so they can easily check the water level in their tank.

