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## How can residents refill their tanks?

When natural resource levels, like rain, bores or rivers run low, residents can arrange to get their tanks filled by commercial water providers.

Most tank owners know who their local providers are or can find them easily online or in service directories. These operators pay Watercare a small fee to fill their tankers at a filling station before transporting the water to their customers.

The council and Watercare do not fill water tanks on private properties.

Visit **OurAuckland.nz** for council places to get 20L per person in your household per day.

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## Contact us

### Auckland Council

For news, council information and assistance:

**09 301 0101**

Visit [ourauckland.govt.nz](http://ourauckland.govt.nz) for more information

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## Rural Support Trust

For advice from your local trust:

**0800 787 254**

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## Lifeline

Need to talk? Free call or free text any time for support from a trained counsellor:

**0800 543 354 or text 4357**

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**If life or property is at risk, call 111**

Phone 09 301 0101 or visit  
[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



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# Tank Supply

Water provision advice for tank owners during dry weather



Phone 09 301 0101 or visit  
[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



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## Prioritising water supply and saving water during a shortage

If your tank water supply is running low, you should prioritise it for things that will protect and maintain your health.

You should be using drinking water:

- for washing hands (hot water)
- after using the toilet
- before food preparation
- for cooking food
- for washing fruit or vegetables
- for cleaning teeth
- for washing dishes (hot water)
- after changing baby
- after activities like gardening

### **DON'T share hand washing water.**

Remember, during a water shortage it's ok to only shower every other day, and you should try to limit the time you're in the shower to around four minutes.

When using the toilet, prioritise flushing for after a bowel movement, rather than after urinating.

For babies, continue to sterilise bottles and baby equipment, keep washing nappies in the usual way and if bathing every second day, wash their face, ears, hands, and bottom on alternate days.

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## Water storage and containers

It is best to use food grade water storage containers, such as those found at hardware or camping supply stores. If you are unable to use a food grade water storage container, be sure the one you choose has a top that can be closed tightly and is made of durable, unbreakable materials (not glass).

**DO NOT USE** containers that have been used to hold liquid or solid toxic chemicals (bleach, fuel, pesticides), or plastic jugs or cardboard containers that have had milk or fruit juice in them.

### Cleaning a water storage container before use

- Sanitise the container with a solution made by mixing 1 teaspoon of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach in one litre of water. Cover tightly and shake well so the bleach solution touches all inside surfaces.
- Wait at least 30 seconds and then pour the sanitising solution out of the container.
- Let the empty container air-dry before use OR rinse with clean, safe water that is available already.

### Storing safe water in a container

- Label container as "drinking water" and include storage date. Replace stored water every six months.
- Keep stored water in a place with a fairly constant cool temperature (10-20°C).
- Do not store water containers in direct sunlight or near toxic substances, such as fuel or pesticides.

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## Disinfecting water

If you are unsure about the quality and safety of your drinking-water, you can disinfect the supply by:

- using an approved filter or purifier.
- boiling the water for one minute. This is the simplest and most effective method to reliably kill some parasites and other germs.
- it's ok to use jugs with an automatic cut-off switch, as long as the jug is full. Never hold down the switch to increase the boiling time, allow it to turn off automatically.
- adding half a teaspoon of plain, unperfumed household bleach to 10 litres of water. This will kill most germs (some parasites are resistant to chlorine). Bleach used to disinfect water should not contain perfume, colour, or detergents, so always check the label before using.

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## Other water supplies

River, lake or swimming pool water can be used for washing clothes, washing floors, watering plants, cleaning cars or pouring into toilets to flush. Do not use for drinking, brushing teeth or washing dishes.

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## Farms, lifestyle blocks and stock

- Think about planning ahead for feed needs or destocking.
- If you are concerned about your animals, contact your vet first, or call MPI Animal Welfare on 0800 00 33 33.