

# Water quality



Have you ever wondered **how water gets to your tap** at home or school?

**Where does our water come from?**

**97% ocean water**  
undrinkable due to high salt content in the water.

**+ 3% freshwater**  
but we can only access 0.75% of this through ground water, lakes and rivers.

## Did you know?

Pure, **clean water** has no colour, is transparent and has no smell.

## Did you know?

Council treats an average of **23 megalitres** of raw water per day. That is just over nine Olympic swimming pools!

## How does my water get treated

Council operates **14 water treatment plants** throughout the region, four of which take raw source water and turn it into safe, clean drinking water through the following process:

- Activated carbon is added to remove taste and odours from the water.
- Charged molecules (known as coagulants) are added to activate bonding between the smaller particles to create larger floc particles.
- These larger floc particles sink to the bottom of the flocculation settling tank and travel to the drying lagoons where it will later be removed to a land fill station.
- The top clean water stream decants to a fine sand filter where it undergoes filtration.
- The filtered water undergoes a PH check and enters the stage of disinfection where chlorine is added to kill any remaining organisms that may carry disease.
- Once treated, the water is stored in reservoirs or water towers before traveling through underground pipes to your tap.

## Using water wisely

Water is our most valuable resource and we need to use it wisely.

### Always do the following:

- **Turn off taps** after washing hands and while brushing your teeth.
- Use the **half flush** when you can.
- Let an adult know if you notice a **dripping tap** or toilet so it can be fixed.
- Use a broom or rake to clean hard outdoor surfaces **instead of a hose**.
- Wash paint brushes in a **small container**, not under a running tap.
- Refill your **water bottle** at the bubbler rather than letting it run while you take a drink.
- Pour leftover water from your water bottle on to the **garden**.

## Did you know?

For every litre of water you drink from a bubbler tap, **four litres** of water goes down the drain. What a waste!

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