



Safe Water Supply Policy CCPS

CCPS does not have access to a reticulated water supply. Rainwater is collected from roofs and stored in tanks. Providing safe drinking water for all children and adults at Clifton Creek Primary School is achieved through implementation of the Safe Water Supply Policy.

To be safe for human consumption, drinking water must not contain disease-causing micro-organisms (bacteria, viruses or parasites) or chemicals at potentially harmful levels. The physical appearance of the water should be clear and colourless, with no unpleasant taste or odour and with no suspended material such as clay or silt.

Ensuring a clean catchment (keeping roofs & gutters clean), regular maintenance (of tanks, pumps & plumbing) and appropriate filtration are the means of dealing with water contaminants at CCPS.

1. Description of the water supply system

The source of water is rainwater. It is used for all requirements including Drinking, Handwashing, Food Preparation, Cleaning and Toilet Flushing

Treatment Methods – Inline filtration using a double cartridge system for drinking water is installed at three points; at the drinking taps outside secret garden, at the north east exterior of kitchen and at the drinking taps at SW exterior of kitchen. The double cartridge system consists of a 10 micron cartridge to remove sediment and a 20 micron cartridge to remove particulates of dirt, rust & algae.

Rainwater ⇒ Storage Tank ⇒ Filtration ⇒ Drinking

2. Potential hazards & ways to manage risks

Rainwater contamination hazards at CCPS include leaves, debris, animals and ash from bushfires. Drinking water for the Office building and Secret Garden drinking taps is collected from the modular 5 admin building, the library and the performance stage installed in 2009-2010. Drinking water for the Kitchen building and drinking taps is collected from the modular 5 class building, the covered ways and the art room.

The risks have been minimized by ensuring ~

- Roofing material is suitable for collection of rainwater.
- Gutters on the mod 5 admin building are protected by guards installed in early 2013.
- Roofs & gutters are inspected on a regular basis (twice a year).
- Leaf stoppers are fitted where necessary on other roofs.
- Tanks and plumbing are lightproof to prevent algal growth.
- Screens are installed on all tank inlets and outlets and vents.
- Any overhanging branches are removed.
- First Flush Diverters are installed at both concrete and plastic tank entry points.

3. Regular operation, monitoring and maintenance procedures

Maintenance is recorded on the departmental School Maintenance System website. Records of inspections will be maintained and filed in the office under "Safe Water Supply Inspections". Details of inspections can be accessed on <https://prms21.eduweb.vic.gov.au/PRMS21/>

INSPECTION SCHEDULE

- Spouting and gutters are cleaned regularly (three monthly and after storms)
- Overhanging branches are trimmed annually
- Downpipes are checked and repaired annually
- Roof condition is checked annually
- Tank inlet and outlet screens are checked regularly (three monthly)
- Tank access covers are checked monthly
- Tank strainers are cleared of debris (three monthly and after storms)
- Check for presence of mosquito larvae in tank water (three monthly)
- Structural condition of tanks are checked annually
- Sludge level and internal cleanliness of water tanks are checked (every two years or as required)
- Replace water filter cartridges as per manufacturer's advice (earlier if a decrease in water flow is noticed)
- At the end of January each year flush out the pipes in the water supply system to ensure stagnant water is not delivered as drinking water.
- Bubble Taps & drinking troughs are cleaned and inspected monthly.

4. Emergency Water Supply

Natural events such as bushfires or presence of animal droppings or dead animals can contaminate normally clean water supplies. In this case the chemical or microbiological levels should be immediately tested by an accredited laboratory to ensure the water is safe. Cleaning of roofs, spouting and tanks will be undertaken. Until quality of water is safe for drinking, the school will supply bottled water and encourage students to bring drinks from home. Warning signs will be displayed at all taps advising that water supply is unsuitable for drinking. *See Attachment 4*

Water may be disinfected to remove most disease-causing microorganisms. Chlorination or UVlight disinfection are options to investigate if water quality is problematic (as indicated by an outbreak of bacterial gastroenteritis confirmed as being linked directly to CCPS water supply)

NOTE Deliveries of carted water in times of drought may be necessary. Carted water must be of drinking quality and transported by a registered water carter from a supply approved by East Gippsland Water. Ideally tanks should be inspected and cleaned before delivery of potable water if there is sludge present. Alternatively a settling period may be necessary before drinking the water.

REFERENCES

Publications : *A guide to completing a water supply management plan* Dept of Health, Vic 2011
Guidelines for private drinking supplies at commercial and community facilities DHS Vic 2009
Guidance on Use of Rainwater Tanks en Health Council 2004

Websites~ www.health.vic.gov.au

Attachments to this document

- 1 *Rainwater Collection Site Plan*
- 2 *Water Use Site Plan*
- 3 *Waste Water System Site Plan*
- 4 *Action Plan for Emergency Water Supply*

Action Plan for Emergency Water Supply

CONTAMINATION : Natural events such as bushfires or presence of animal droppings or dead animals can contaminate normally clean water supplies. In this case, the chemical or microbiological levels should be tested immediately by an accredited laboratory to ensure the water is safe.

1. SHUT OFF WATER SUPPLY
2. ENSURE BOTTLED WATER IS ON HAND
3. SEND SAMPLES TO LAB

Accredited Laboratory ~ ALS Environmental, Scoresby Office 0387 568 000

Phone Contact ~ Carmin De Palma 0387 568 106

Procedure for having water tested~

School has a sampling kit consisting of a set of bottles in a foam esky stored in school office. When necessary a sample is collected. It must be kept at 4° C and returned to Lab within 24 hours.

The sample could be dropped off at ALS Environmental's Bairnsdale Depot

ALS Bairnsdale

Barry Waddell

70 Forge Creek Rd, Bairnsdale

Barry would need to be contacted so that he can organise his couriers M: 0409 389 398

{Remember that swift action is crucial for accurate readings}

Response time~ Results should be known within 3 days.

Person Responsible for undertaking this task ~

Quoted cost from Lab for tests

~E.Coli & Coliforms (Colilert) \$41 plus reporting fee \$33 per sample

~Comprehensive Test (Ecoli, heavy metals, nitrate, pH, solids etc) \$347.60 per sample

~Algae Test (only if there is algal growth present) \$99 per sample

4. CLEANING of ROOFS, SPOUTING and TANKS will be undertaken. Until quality of water is safe for drinking, the school will supply bottled water and encourage students to bring drinks from home.
5. PLACE WARNING SIGNS at all taps advising that water supply is unsuitable for drinking.

DROUGHT : Deliveries of carted water in times of drought may be necessary. Carted water must be of drinking quality and transported by a registered water carter from a supply approved by East Gippsland Water.

Lee Stirzaker trading as Old Man Water ph 5155 1063 or mobile 0429 477 672 is our water carting contractor.

Ideally tanks should be inspected and cleaned before delivery of potable water if there is sludge present. Alternatively a settling period may be necessary before drinking the water.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 22 March 2016