



Plumbing Newsflash

LEACHING OF PETROCHEMICALS, TURPS, AND PESTICIDES THROUGH POLYETHYLENE PIPE WATER SYSTEMS

Purpose

The purpose of this newsflash is to advise on the potential leaching hazard of organic carbon based petrochemicals, turps, and pesticides through polyethylene pipe water services.

Background

Concerns have been raised with the Department that the water supply to some properties may be affected by the leaching of organic carbon based petrochemicals, turps, and pesticides through polyethylene pipe water services. This also applies to the redevelopment of service station sites.

In reported cases to date, there was a strong smell and taste in the drinking water. The water services were then replaced by copper piping and no smell or taste has been reported since.

Legislation

- The National Plumbing and Drainage Code AS/NZS 3500.2.2 requires that polyethylene pipes and fittings must be manufactured to Australian Standard and certified by Quality Assurance Services (QAS) with a MAP certification.
- Polyethylene pressure pipes below ground must be installed in accordance with AS/NZS 3500.1.2 (Water Supply – Acceptable Solution) and AS 2033 (Installation of polyethylene pipe systems).

Interpretation

The Australian Standard (AS/NZS 3500) specifies that polyethylene pipes and fittings must not be used in areas subject to contamination by petroleum products. The Australian Standard AS 2033 also recommends a list of chemicals not suitable for use with polyethylene pipes and fittings.

Contact Officer

Please contact Michael McGuinness on (07) 3237 1718 should you require further information regarding this matter.