



Water used for drinking, teeth cleaning, handwashing, bathing, showering, food preparation and cooking needs to be free from harmful germs and chemicals.

Photo by Charlie Rahm, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service W002005

# How safe is the water you drink?

Your water supply could be contaminated at its source (roof, spouting, springs, streams) and in its storage and distribution systems (tanks and pipelines).

**THIS CONTAMINATION CAN CAUSE ILLNESS LIKE DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING**

which can be particularly dangerous for babies, the elderly or people with weakened immune systems.

If your water comes from a water collection tank, it's up to you to keep it safe and free from contaminants.

FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER AT ...  
source

## IDENTIFY CONTAMINATION

## PUT UP A BARRIER

\* a first flush diverter prevents the first water collected from carrying debris into the collection tank

treatment

- leaves and dirt
- dead animals and insects; and their faeces
- germ-carrying particles
- germs

- install leaf diverter
- install first flush diverter\*  
cut back overhanging branches
- boil water in electric kettle  
install filters (carbon and mechanical)
- install more advanced treatment (UV, ozone, disinfection, reverse osmosis, distillation)

storage & distribution

- leaves, dirt, insects, animals getting into tanks
- leaves, dirt, insects, animals getting into spouting and downpipes

- regularly check and clean roof and spouting  
install lids & screens to protect tank inlets  
clean tanks once or twice a year (including vents cowl, valves & overflow)
- use plastic pipes and safe roof paint  
install correct number of downpipes



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, contact Environmental Health, Gisborne District Council 06 867 2049