

Nickel, plumbing and tap fittings



Nickel can occur naturally in some ground water sources, however the most common source of nickel in tap water is from the chrome plating in plumbing and tap fittings.

Nickel is used to help chrome plating ‘stick’ to the fitting. Poorly finished products or those that are worn can expose surfaces with a high nickel content which can cause skin irritation or allergies.



Quick checklist

- The chrome plating on your taps is starting to wear off.
- You have new pipework or fittings.
- You have noticed a skin irritation after washing.
- You may have a non-approved chrome-plated tap or fitting.

What can you do?

If you have skin which is sensitive to nickel, try running the tap for a few seconds before using for washing, as this will remove any water that has been standing in contact with any nickel.

Nickel levels in hot water tend to be higher than in cold water, if you have a nickel allergy, it might be wise to shower in water that is a bit more of a moderate heat.

New fittings or pipework may initially leak small amounts of nickel into the water, but this will normally reduce the more the fittings are used.

If you have any worn chrome plating, or your pipework/fittings are not Regulation 4 compliant, try replacing them with an approved type. Local plumbing merchants or a plumber should be able to help you find these.

To learn more about tap water and skin irritation please read our [Water Quality Fact Sheet 15](#)

Get in touch

You can get further information on water quality

Visit [anglianwater.co.uk/dwq](https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/dwq)

Call **03457 145 145**

24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

