



Where does the water in my private water supply come from?

Water can come from sources such as rivers, streams or lochs. This kind of supply is called a "surface water" supply. These supplies would normally require some form of water treatment before they would be suitable for use as a drinking water supply.

Water can also come from under the ground. These types of supplies include springs, boreholes or wells and are called "groundwaters".

Groundwaters can provide very clean sources of water particularly those from deep underground like boreholes. It can sometime be difficult to be sure of the source just by looking at the water.

For example, sometimes what appears to be a spring is really the outlet for field drains. In other cases shallow wells are really getting water from just below the soil surface and so can easily be contaminated.

Some groundwaters, however, may have naturally occurring chemicals in them such as iron or manganese that will stain clothes or make the water unpleasant to drink.

