

# Water Facts

## 11. Nickel



# Nickel

## Why is there Nickel in my water supply?

Nickel is used in the production of stainless steels and nickel alloys. It is normally found in drinking water at relatively low levels when compared to food. However, higher levels of nickel may be present where new nickel-chrome plated taps have been installed and the nickel has leached from the tap surface. Leaching of nickel from the taps will generally reduce with time. Other sources of nickel include stainless steel pipes and fittings.

### Should I be concerned if I have Nickel in my water supply?

The amount of nickel typically found in drinking water poses a low risk to health.

However, where nickel has been leaching from fittings and the concentration is elevated, it can cause an allergic reaction causing dermatitis.

### What should I do to reduce the risk of high levels of Nickel?

The easiest way to reduce the risk of nickel entering your water supply is to ensure that the taps and fittings within your property are approved and are on the [WRAS Water Fittings and Materials Directory \(WRAS Approvals\)](#).

If you do install a new tap ensure you flush it regularly.



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