



Newsletter

February 2008

Welcome to the first issue of the Mr Plumber newsletter for 2008, a quarterly publication. All newsletters can be found at our website www.mrplumber.co.nz.

Imported taps may have high lead content

Traces of metals - in particular lead - are potential health risks, especially if consumed from childhood. Research carried out by the Institute of Environmental Science and Research for the Ministry has shown some New Zealand supplies contain minute traces of lead that are near to or exceed the maximum acceptable level specified in the Drinking-water Standards.

It is important to note that the lead is not coming from the water supplies themselves, but primarily from metals in some imported household fittings that may be dissolved into the water. The amount of lead that will dissolve from a fitting depends on how plumbosolvent the water is; the temperature of the water; the composition of the plumbing fittings and how long the water has been in contact with it. The Ministry of Health therefore recommends that people do not drink the first mugful of water if their tap has not been used for several hours ie: overnight for instance. The Ministry will work closely with the Standards New Zealand and the plumbing industry in New Zealand in developing quality standards for plumbing fittings.

Take care if purchasing imported tapware by comparing the weight of the tap with a locally made product or simply buy NZ or Australian manufactured products. Also note the brand of the tap, availability of spare parts and source.



Council pays to repair major drain collapse on private property

Mr Plumber was called by an elderly couple to clear a blocked sewerage drain at their home. The house and drains, located in a relatively new subdivision had been laid and signed off by the council. Extensive investigation work (including excavation) revealed the cause of collapse and blockage to be council drain connections backfilled with excavated soil rather than scoria, which had compacted and sunk over time.

Council was contacted to discuss the repair of the drains, initially stating that because the problem was on private land, it was the owners responsibility to rectify. Later, after a call from the property owner's daughter, a Council contracted senior plumber and drainage engineer arrived on site and the council agreed to pay our bill and for all repair work. A great result for our elderly customers!

Christmas callouts galore

Over the Christmas holiday period we were kept extremely busy with emergency calls for problems including leaking cylinders, pipes, roofs, taps, blocked drains and faulty gas appliances. Quite a number of calls were outside normal working hours where the minimum callout fee can be increased by up to \$100.00 for this after hours work. To offset this and as a benefit to our loyal customers we have established the Mr Plumber Premier Plan which offers Priority Scheduling, Preferential Pricing, Periodic Specials, Personalised Records, Transferable Agreement and Multiple Site Coverage. For more information on this exciting new product please contact us now on 0800 677586 or visit our website www.mrplumber.co.nz

0800 67 75 86

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