

Drinking Water

Safe Drinking Water: A Shared Responsibility

Drinking Water in land-lease communities may come from a municipal water supply (operated by Halifax Water) or water may be drawn from wells, lakes, or other waterbodies. Depending on where the drinking water comes from, responsibility for providing drinking water and making sure it is clean and safe may be shared between the Community Operator, Nova Scotia Environment, HRM, and Halifax Water.

Municipal Water Supply

Halifax Water provides water service up to the boundary of the land-lease community. Halifax Water does not own or maintain any pipes inside the community and does not install water meters on individual homes. The Community Operator is Halifax Water's customer, and they get one water bill for all the water used by all residents inside the community.

Halifax Water is responsible for making sure the water going into the community is safe and clean and will issue advisories if there are ever any service interruptions or quality issues with the water supply that residents need to be aware of.



Who is Responsible?

The Community Operator is always responsible for the distribution of water within the community, regardless of whether the water is from an on-site source or from a municipal service connection. The Operator owns all of the pipes within the community as well as the water treatment system at the water source. The Operator is always responsible for providing a continuous supply of potable water to all homes within the community, and for fixing any issues with water systems, including water main breaks and contamination issues.

Some Community Operators install water meters on individual homes and bill residents for the amount of water they use. These meters are a requirement of the Operator, and not HRM or Halifax Water. Residents who pay for water are a customer of the Community Operator, and not of Halifax Water.

If a Community Operator is not providing a continuous supply of potable water to homes in the community, they are in violation of the Mobile Home Park By-law, and the Municipality is responsible for making the Operator correct the problem. If Operators cannot or will not correct water quality issues, HRM can prosecute Operators and ask the courts to apply fines or issue orders to correct problems.

On-Site Water Supply

Land-lease communities which are not connected to municipal water service get their water from wells, lakes, or other waterbodies. Typically, this water needs to be treated to make it safe to drink.

All land-lease communities with an on-site water supply that provide water service to more than 15 homes must be registered as a Public Drinking Water Supply with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSECC). Operators of Public Drinking Water Supplies are required to test their water at regular intervals and report any water quality issues to NSECC. If water quality issues are detected, NSECC issues boil water advisories letting consumers know that the water is not safe to drink without boiling. Where more serious contamination exists, NSECC may issue "Do Not Consume" advisories, where water is not safe to drink even if boiled, or "Do Not Use" advisories, where it is not safe for water to come into contact with skin, eyes, or nose.



Where any type of advisory has been issued, NSECC requires Operators to notify residents of issues, and create a plan on how to correct the issues. Advisories will stay in place until the issue has been resolved, and multiple tests have confirmed the water is once again safe.

