



# Frequently Asked Questions Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal



Question	Answer
<b>Do I need a written program?</b>	Any CG unit that makes, treats or stores its own water is required to have a written program. This includes Cutters and shore facilities with water storage or treatment systems.
<b>How do I develop a Potable Water Bill?</b>	Utilize the Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal Library portal page for guidance. There is a template to create a potable water program for shore or afloat.
<b>What if I am on a municipal water system?</b>	The municipality takes care of the treatment and testing of its water system. There may be cases where a concern arises (such as a foul odor or color) at your tap. Work through the municipality to determine potential causes/sources and request a service call, if possible.
<b>Should I drink my water after a hurricane or flood?</b>	High waters can damage a water system and/or cause infiltration of bacteria. If you are on a municipal/public water system, follow the guidance of the municipality. They may order a “boil water notice” if bacteria or other microorganisms are detected or if their disinfection process is compromised. If on a Coast Guard-owned well or water system, follow guidance from your water system operator and consult your HSWL SEHO with any concerns.
<b>What do I do if I get a positive bacteria result?</b>	Restrict drinking water usage and re-test. Disinfection may be needed. Stepwise guidance is provided in the appendices of the Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal TTP, CGTTP 4-11.10(series).
<b>Why do I need to flush my water in the morning onboard a Cutter before drinking?</b>	Lead is present in small amounts in certain piping or valves, many of which were still used in construction of Cutter water systems. Flushing for ~10 seconds helps clean out any lead that has built up in the water during periods of non-use, such as sleep hours. See the Lead Hazard Management portal page for more information.
<b>Why is there fluoride in my water?</b>	There is a separate FAQs sheet on the Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal portal page for Drinking Water Fluoridation.
<b>Who is responsible for testing shore side?</b>	Units are responsible for funding and collecting water samples. Laboratories offer the service of having a technician visit the unit and collect samples. Labs also typically send SOP’s detailing the collection procedure with sampling media, if the unit would prefer to do their own collection.
<b>What do the test results mean?</b>	Interpreting lab reports for the unit will likely be another common request. Guiding the unit on what their test results mean will assist the EPO in making adjustments to the system if modifications are needed per an unsatisfactory test result.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal



Question	Answer
<b>What laboratory do I send my samples to?</b>	The EPA requires laboratories to become certified to analyze drinking water samples and that they use EPA approved analytical methods. There are many EPA certified drinking water labs around the country. This link provides information on EPA certified laboratories per State.
<b>Who is responsible for water quality afloat?</b>	For units with an IDHS, follow the protocols listed in COMDTINST M6000.1 (series), Chapter 9.  For units without an IDHS, the EO/EPO shall follow the Cutter's MPC.  Utilize the Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal TTP, CGTTP 4-11.10A for additional guidance.
<b>What equipment do I need to conduct water testing?</b>	For units with an IDHS, follow the guidance related to the most recent Health Services Allowance List (HSAL) for afloat or shore. This will provide the tools required to conduct water testing for units with an IDHS.  For units without an IDHS, refer to the MPC for required equipment to conduct water testing.  For questions or concerns reach out to your District Safety and Environmental Officer (SEHO).