



Protecting your tank water during bushfire season

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Always remember...

The current fires in far east Victoria and Tasmania are causing a smoke issue within Baw Baw Shire at the moment.

This may result in tainting of tank water with a smoky and dusty taste. This is caused by the same dust accumulations you see on your car after rain and is a short-term issue.

There are no health implications from using this water for general household uses, including drinking.

There are things you can do to protect your private drinking water supply to ensure it is not affected by a bushfire.

When bushfires threaten Gippsland, follow these steps to protect your water tank from contamination

- Be prepared to take action to divert water from the roof before it gets into the tank by having a plan for how you can go about disconnecting the tanks inflow pipe(s).
- Consider installing and maintaining a first-flush diversion device. This is available from local hardware and plumbing suppliers.
- If you are away, have someone organised to implement your tank water diversion plan.
- Monitor how close the fire is, look for evidence of dust and smoke.
- Leave the tank isolated as long as there is smoke etc in the air.
- Wait for rain to wash your roof and flush the collection system.
- Reconnect pipes or switch off diverter.

Bushfire in Gippsland
(could be far away)



Look for evidence of
dust and smoke



Disconnect your water
tank or switch to tank
diverter



Let rain flush
your roof



Reconnect your
water tank



Check water quality
before drinking or using
for cooking



More information

For more information on diverting your water tank, contact your local plumber or go to www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/bushfires-and-water-tanks