

Drinking Water Hauler Guidance

BRANT COUNTY HEALTH UNIT



**BRANT COUNTY
HEALTH UNIT**

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Introduction

Drinking water haulage vehicles often supply water to homes in rural areas serviced by cisterns or shallow wells with poor or unreliable water yield. Hauled drinking water is also relied upon in emergency situations by municipalities, businesses, and homes in cases where a risk to public health has been associated with or identified in drinking water supplies. The protection of drinking water is crucial to preventing the spread of water-borne disease and preventing contamination of water systems.

Public Health Inspectors from the Brant County Health Unit will be conducting inspections of local water haulers. This guideline is intended to assist you in ensuring that you are providing safe water to your customers.

Water Source

- Ensure drinking water is obtained from a supply that complies with the requirements of Ontario Regulation 169/03 (Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards). Water from municipal fill stations meets these requirements.

Water Container & Equipment

- Ensure all surfaces in contact with potable water are food grade, corrosion resistant, and readily cleanable.
- Ensure any article or piece of equipment that is used for distribution of drinking water is of sound, tight construction and kept in good repair.
- Ensure all inlets, outlets, openings and hoses are constructed and maintained to prevent contamination from pests or any other contaminant.
- Any lubricant that may come in contact with the drinking water is of such quality that it will not contaminate the water or cause a health hazard (food grade).
- Ensure water tank is clearly labeled “Drinking Water” or “Potable Water”.

Filling, Transporting and Dispensing Potable Water

- Have a spray bottle with bleach solution to sanitize any hose or connection prior to filling at water stations and before dispensing water to a customer.
- Provide and use sanitizer test strips to verify solution strength.
- Ensure all openings, inlets, outlets, and hoses are covered and sealed at all times except when filling/emptying/cleaning (capped and sealed).
- Maintaining a chlorine residual in the hauled water helps to prevent bacteria growth.
- Prompt delivery of water after filling will help to maintain an adequate chlorine residual.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Ensure the tank and equipment are cleaned and sanitized as often as necessary to maintain them in sanitary condition.
- It is recommended that tanks be cleaned and sanitized at least three times per year.
- New tanks must be cleaned and sanitized prior to use.
- Tanks must be cleaned and sanitized immediately after repairs, known contamination or after an adverse water test result.
- Provide and use sanitizer test strips to verify solution strength.

Cleaning Sanitizing Procedures

- Step 1: Wash or scrub surfaces and equipment with detergent and rinse with clean potable water.
- Step 2: Spray or rinse with one of the following sanitizing solutions:
 - **Hot water:** Sprayed or rinsed with hot water or steam in a manner that creates a temperature no less than 82° Celsius on the treated surface.
 - **Chlorine:** Immersion in a Chlorine solution of not less than 200 parts per million of available chlorine at a temperature not lower than 24° Celsius for at least forty-five seconds.
 - **Quaternary Ammonium:** Immersion in a quaternary ammonium compound solution of not less than 400 parts per million at a temperature not lower than 24° Celsius for at least forty-five seconds.
 - **Iodine:** Immersion in a solution containing not less than 25 parts per million of available iodine at a temperature not lower than 24° Celsius for at least forty-five seconds.
 - **Other Approved Agent:** Immersion in a solution containing a sanitizing agent that is non-toxic and that provides a bacteriological result not less than the guidelines above and for which a convenient test reagent is available. Consult with your Public Health Inspector prior to use.

Testing

- Inspectors will test chlorine levels and obtain a bacteriological water sample during routine inspections to establish adequate sanitation and potability of the hauled water.

Record Keeping

- Maintain a record log of all water fill-ups and deliveries including the date, time, location, and volume of the fill-up and delivery location.
- Record any cleaning or maintenance of the water tank or water delivery equipment in the logbook.

For more information:

Contact the Brant County Health Unit – Environmental Health program at 519-753-4937 ext. 470, or via email at EnvironmentalHealth@bchu.org.

