

Possible Impact of Floods on Water Quality

Flooding has the potential to have an impact on town water supplies, even in areas which are not directly affected by flooding.

Below is an overview of a few of the potential issues related to this, which may affect fish.

Contamination with Sewerage

If heavily contaminated then do not use. Light contamination is ok as the bacteria that will cause people to get sick do not affect fish as much.

Also note, if you are working with contaminated water use gloves and wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.

Sediment

If water is carrying a heavy sediment load then do not use. Low sediment levels will cause minimal if any harm to the fish – remember fish are exposed to this as a general course in nature. However, heavy sediment loads could damage gills and will smother or block filters.

A filter system on your tap will help reduce any problems from sediment – filtration to 20 microns is sufficient

Chlorine

To reduce the potential for disease to be carried in water, chlorine is routinely added to town water supplies. Under flood current circumstances extra chlorine may be added to town water. Therefore it is highly recommended to use a good water conditioner that will treat both chlorine and chloramines when adding new water to tanks. An activated carbon filter on your tap will also assist with this.

Heavy Metal such as Aluminium and Copper

Various chemicals and metals are added to town water supplies to make them safe for humans to drink. Aluminium is added to reduce sediment, copper to reduce algae. As these could be an issue with the flood waters, levels of these sort of metals may be elevated. A good water conditioner that will remove/eliminate/bind toxic heavy metals will reduce problems with these.

They are most likely to affect fish from soft/acid waters first such as Tetras and Discus.

For further information

If you are unsure about your water, you should check the website of, or contact your local council or water supply body.