

Shared Supplies

Many older properties, usually terrace houses have a shared supply, this will include one communication pipe from the water company's main to one primary stop cock, before a shared supply pipe splits off to individual properties.

Issues arising out of shared supplies:

- Drops in flow and pressure when neighbouring properties are using water. This can be due to the pipework being insufficient in size to meet demand for modern kitchens and bathrooms.
- Only one primary stop cock, meaning every property on the shared supply will have their water switched off for maintenance work on one property and all properties will require an internal meter.
- When leaks occur, there may be access issues as individuals will require their neighbour's permission to excavate their land.

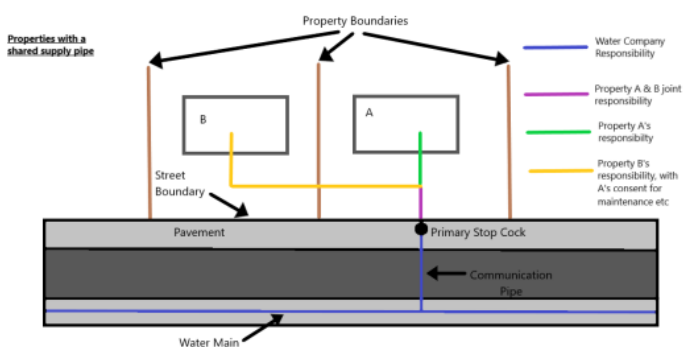
Homeowners can come off the shared supply and lay their own supply (information on how to lay a new supply pipe can be found on our website). Once the water company has connected the new supply, it is the homeowner's responsibility to disconnect the old, shared supply back to its source pipework to remove any blind ends and prevent water stagnation and bacteria growth.

If a homeowner plans to build over the top of a shared supply (for example building an extension to their house), the shared supply should be re-routed with the written permission of their neighbour. The pipework could either

be re-routed around the outside of the new build or laid in a duct under the property.

The Water Industry Act 1991 gives water companies the right to require the provision of a separate service pipe to a property in certain situations (Section 64 (1) and (2)). Reasons for this include the pipework becoming defective, development (such as conversions) and/or someone interfering with the shared supply of water to other premises.

The diagram below shows the responsibilities of each property on a shared supply:



Ofwat have created the diagram below which exemplifies the simplicity that comes with having a separate supply pipe:

