

## Taste and odour problems associated with washing machines and dishwashers

Most dishwashers and washing machines are now connected directly to the mains water supply but are sometimes not plumbed in correctly. All connections should include a single check valve (also known as a non-return valve) so that water within the flexible hoses or the dishwasher or washing machine itself, cannot return to the mains supply and reach the kitchen tap. If it does, you are likely to get rubber or plastic tastes and odours in your tap water. Also flexible hoses can deteriorate over time and release traces of chemicals that can cause 'chemical' type tastes and odours that are particularly noticeable with hot drinks. Fitting non-return valves will prevent this problem.

### **How can I check if the taste and odour in the water is due to my washing machine or dishwasher?**

A simple means of checking if the washing machine or dishwasher is the cause is to temporarily turn off the valves which control the water flow into the machine. Run the tap which you use for drinking water for a short period to clear the pipes and then taste the water. If this solves the taste problem, fit a single check valve (also known as a non-return valve) on the end of the machine hose where it connects to the household pipework. Always ensure that any flexible hoses and tap washers are Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS) approved.

Look for the 'WRAS Approved' logo. This shows products that water

companies have checked and endorsed as complying with regulations to ensure they do not affect drinking water quality.

Also visit [www.wras.co.uk](http://www.wras.co.uk) for more information.



*Washing machine hose with single check valve fitted inline.*