

Top 10 tips to get the best water for your chickens



1. Before buying a new farm or building new sheds, make sure the water supply and water quality meet your needs, especially in extended dry conditions or drought.
2. Pre-treat your water to remove suspended solids and organic matter. Having this in your water can reduce the effectiveness of the disinfectant used.
3. Disinfect your water to inactivate microorganisms and make it safe for your chickens.
4. Regularly test the quality of your water to measure its microbial, chemical and physical characteristics so you can identify and control any issues. This will also show how effective your water pre-treatment and disinfection processes are. All water sources used should be regularly tested.
5. Regularly inspect your whole water system and fix any problems to prevent system failures and make sure each component of the water system works properly.
6. Minimise scale and biofilm build-up by regularly flushing the line with a registered cleaner. High levels of scale and biofilm can reduce the life of your drinkers and be a cause of reduced water quality.
7. Flush and/or clean water lines regularly, that is, between each flock and after using additives or medications in the water.
8. Aim to keep water pH within the optimal range (6.5–7.8) when adding disinfectant and scale-reduction chemicals.
9. Use nipple drinkers—they are more water efficient and hygienic compared to other drinker systems such as open ‘bell’ drinkers.
10. Monitor and control your entire water system regularly and develop a water management plan to maintain water quality.

Adapted from *Industry best practice manual for water quality management and sterilisation on-farm*.

Contact

Eugene McGahan

Agricultural and Environmental Engineering Consultant
Integrity Ag & Environment

eugenemcgahan@gmail.com

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More information

Download the [industry best practice manual for water quality management and sterilisation on farm \(PDF, 2.6MB\)](#) or view the online version [here](#).

Watch the drinker management [video](#).

