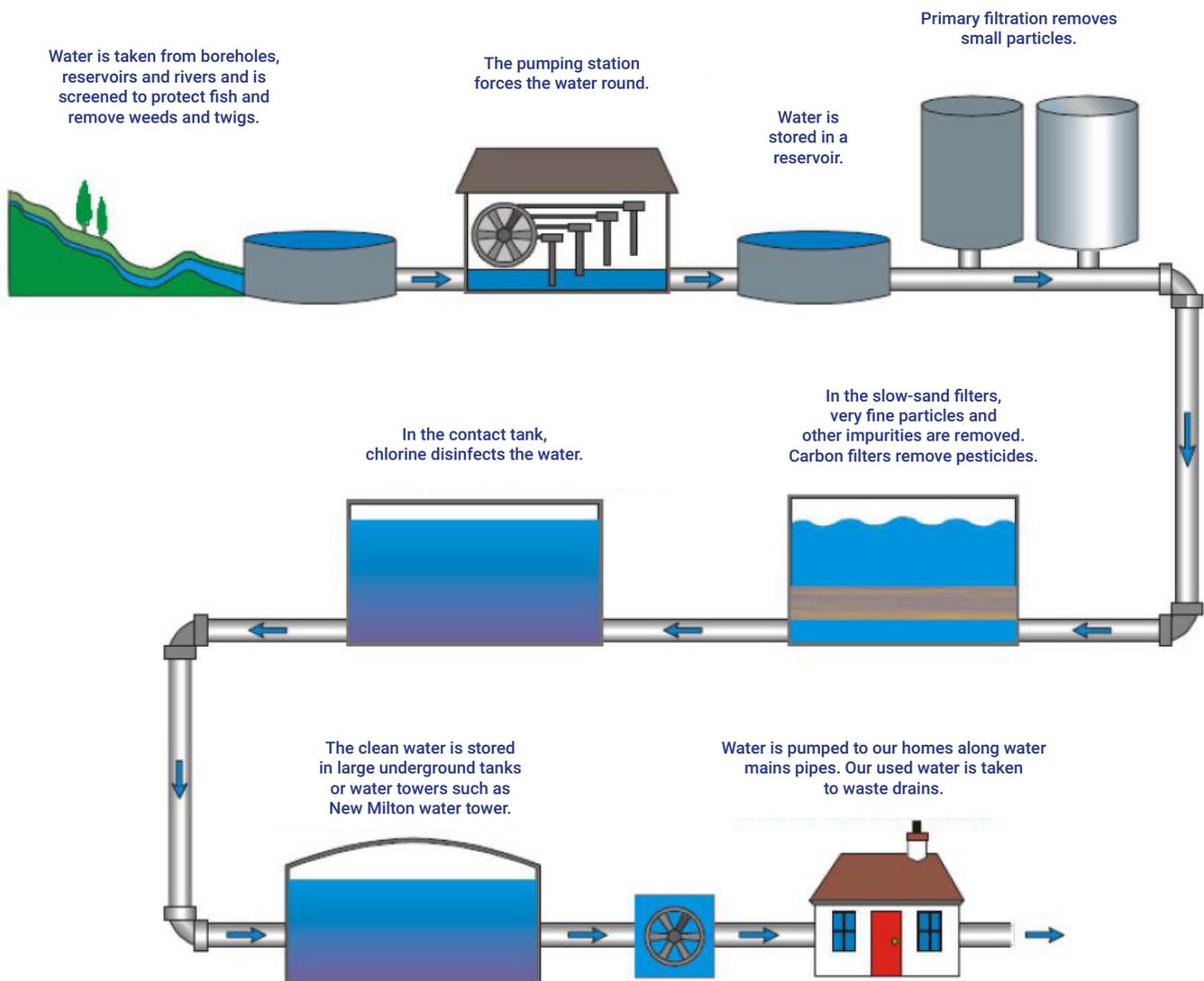


Water treatment

How our water is cleaned

Water in streams may look clean, but you should never drink it because there may be harmful bacteria and chemicals that could make you ill.

So how is our water cleaned? How does it arrive in our homes?



Water in developing countries

All we need to do in Britain is to turn on the tap and we know that our water is clean and safe to drink. Already today you will have used water to wash, clean your teeth, flush the toilet and drink.

But imagine ...

- not having a tap with running water in your house
- having to walk miles to collect water every day
- finding the water is dirty and will make you ill if you drink it
- not having a proper, flushing toilet.

In many countries in Africa and India, thousands of children die every day because they do not have clean water to drink or a clean place to go to the toilet.

Factoid

The charity WaterAid helps to provide clean water and toilets to people in the poorest and driest countries. See: www.wateraid.org.uk

Before water was treated in the UK, waterborne diseases like typhoid, cholera, dysentery and diarrhoea were common, and many people died from them. In the United Kingdom, our tap water is treated and is quite safe to drink.