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Treasure our water while enjoying the beautiful scenery of the countryside

(Water Supplies Department logo)

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The natural fresh water resources collected in Hong Kong mainly come from rainwater. Rainwater is collected via streams and catchwaters, and is then stored in the impounding reservoirs. The concerned areas for gathering water are known as "Water Gathering Grounds (WGGs)".

The impounding reservoirs and WGGs in Hong Kong are distinctive and known for their scenic environments. On top of supplying precious water to the city and its citizens, they serve as popular spots for countryside lovers. While the Water Supplies Department (WSD) adopts a multiple-barrier approach in safeguarding the quality of fresh water from source to distribution, hikers must always remember to keep the water sources clean when visiting these reservoirs and WGGs, and to protect fresh water resources from pollution.

Do not trespass into waterworks tunnel

For safety reason, hiker is not allowed to trespass into the waterworks tunnel to avoid accidents including the risk of being swept away by sudden floods.

In order to prevent pollution of fresh water sources, the WSD has erected warning signage or banners in WGGs and reservoirs to enhance the awareness of the public. The department also conducts routine inspections in WGGs and reservoirs, and takes enforcement actions when necessary.

Do not pollute water during outing and hiking

Common Illegal Acts

According to Section 30(2) of the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102), it is an offence for any person who

enters, or bathes or washes in, water forming part of the waterworks such as

- bathes, swims, dives or plays in reservoir, catchwater, etc.
- takes water from the stream in WGG, etc. for cooking or cleaning or conducts climbing activities in the stream, etc.
- conducts adventurous activities in waterworks tunnel, catchwater, etc.

washes or causes or permits any animal to enter water forming part of the waterworks such as

- washes or releases animal (including fish, etc.) into reservoir, etc.
- brings animal entering into reservoir, catchwater, WGG, etc. for playing or bathing.

throws or places anything in water forming part of the waterworks such as

- plays remote-controlled boat in reservoir, etc.
- paddles in reservoir, etc.
- throws rubbish or any other things in reservoir, catchwater, stream situated in WGG, etc.

Penalties for illegal acts

Upon conviction, the person is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and a maximum imprisonment for 2 years.

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Protect water sources from pollution during fishing in reservoirs

Reservoirs including irrigation reservoirs are popular places for fishing with a fishing licence from WSD.

According to Regulations 41 and 44 of the Waterworks Regulations, it is an offence for any person who fishes in a reservoir without a valid licence or contravenes any condition of a fishing licence. Upon conviction, the person is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

Please refer to the WSD website for the application procedures:

WSD website → Customer Services → Other Customer Services →
Fishing in Reservoirs → Application for Fishing Licence
(QR Code for WSD webpage of “Application for Fishing Licence”)

For any suspected case regarding pollution of reservoirs or illegal fishing in reservoirs, please call the WSD Customer Enquiry 24-hour Hotline at 2824 5000.

Water Supplies Department

24-hour Hotline : 2824 5000

Email : wsdinfo@wsd.gov.hk

Website : <https://www.wsd.gov.hk>

(QR Code for WSD webpage of “Treasure Our Water Do Not Contaminate”)