



# FINLAND

## Water & Waste Water Market Brief 2009

### Finland: Important Links & Contacts

Finland's Environmental Administration – [www.ymparisto.fi](http://www.ymparisto.fi)

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry – [www.mmm.fi](http://www.mmm.fi)

Finnish Water and Waste Water Works Association (VVY) – [www.vvy.fi](http://www.vvy.fi)

Finnish Water Association – [www.vesiyhdistys.fi](http://www.vesiyhdistys.fi)



## Market Overview

Water supply plants deliver high quality drinking water to the majority of Finns, over 90 percent of the population, while most of the waste water is purified. The largest cities and towns use surface water as raw water. In the whole country two-thirds of the public water service is based on natural and artificial ground water supplies, and the share is growing. The plants extract groundwater about seven million cubic meters of ground water a day. People who live in the more sparsely populated regions use mainly well water and ground water from natural springs.

Water services infrastructure is relatively new and well maintained. The quality of water in piped water supply systems meets European Union norms, but in rural areas many wells fail to meet the criteria. Waste water treatment in population centers and by industry are of a high European standard, and over 80 percent of the population is connected to centralized sewage systems.

Watercourses in Finland are very sensitive; lakes are shallow, and coastal areas are fragmented into thousands of islands. Thus, very effective waste water treatment is required to preserve water quality, and increased nitrogen removal is widely necessary. Discharges of phosphorus and nitrogen from agriculture are considered a great risk for Finnish watercourses. Services and sophisticated equipment to reduce discharges of phosphorus, nitrogen, and fluoride, in some cases, are considered best prospects for the Finnish market.

Waste water treatment systems for buildings outside municipal sewerage systems, including about million holiday homes, must be brought in line with the revised legislation on waste water treatment by 2014. This is likely to offer market opportunities for U.S. companies offering underground greywater filtering systems and surface level on-site treatment plants designed for easy installation.

### Water Usage

- Amount of water pumped by water works: 408 mill.m<sup>3</sup>/year.
- Water consumption of communities per hook-up: 242 l/day.
- Water abstraction by the industrial sector: 9 500 mill.m<sup>3</sup>/year.
- Domestic water consumption in Helsinki (capital city): 160 l/person/day.
- Water consumption according to consumer group in Helsinki: Domestic 76%, Industry 6%, Public services 17%, Other 1%.

#### Further information:

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