

# Ngā momo wai

# Types of water



Ngā Roimata o Ranginui  
Tears of the sky father

ua  
rain

**Wai-ora**  
pure / healthy water



This is water in its purest form. It contains the source of life and wellbeing.

**Wai-māori**  
fresh water



Water that is used for consumption, sustains life, runs free or unrestrained and has no sacred associations.

**Wai-kino**  
dangerous / polluted water



The mauri (life force) of the water has been altered through pollution and has the potential to do harm to all living things (incl humans and ecosystems). Also refers to dangerous water such as rapids.

**Wai-mate**  
dead water



Water that is no longer able to sustain life. It is dangerous to all living things (incl humans and ecosystems) because it can cause illness or misfortune.

**Wai-tai**  
seawater / salt water



This term also refers to rough or angry water as in surf, waves or sea tides.

**Wai-tapu**  
sacred water



This is water that is used for ritual and ceremony.

Ngā puna wai (tapu) o Papatūānuku  
The weeping springs of the earth mother

