

Table 8.3: Percentage distribution of housing units by principal materials of construction and by sector - 2006

Sector	Principal materials of wall, floor and roof								
	Wall			Floor			Roof		
	Total (%)	Permanent (%)	Semi permanent (%)	Total (%)	Permanent (%)	Semi permanent (%)	Total (%)	Permanent (%)	Semi permanent (%)
Sri Lanka	100	88.4	11.6	100	86.9	13.1	100	82.3	17.7
Urban	100	92.2	7.8	100	96.8	3.2	100	87.1	12.9
Rural	100	87.9	12.1	100	85.6	14.4	100	85.1	14.9
Estate	100	85.7	14.3	100	80.5	19.5	100	27.1	72.9

8.4 Drinking water

Data on main sources of drinking water (i.e. well, tube well, pipe borne water, stream, river, tank etc.) was collected from all sample households. The survey results reveal that majority of households in occupied housing units drink water from protected wells. It is very important to observe the condition of drinking water, whether it is safe or not. For example drinking water from protected well, pipe borne water, tube well was considered as safe water. Drinking water from unprotected well, river, tank, stream etc. was considered as unsafe water in this survey.

According to the survey, about 86 percent of households in Sri Lanka use safe drinking water. Differences exist by safe drinking water with regard to area of residence. Regarding urban and estate sectors, 97.2 percent of households in urban sector and 50.6 percent of households in estate sector use safe drinking water. Further it also shows that 29 percent of households travel outside the premises to get safe drinking water. Further analysis it shows that 23 percent of households in occupied housing units travel less than 200 meters to get water.

Table 8.4: Percentage distribution of households by main source of drinking water (safe or unsafe) and by sector - 2006

Sector	Drinking water		
	Total (%)	Safe (%)	Not safe (%)
Sri Lanka	100	85.7	14.3
Urban	100	97.2	2.8
Rural	100	85.9	14.1
Estate	100	50.6	49.4