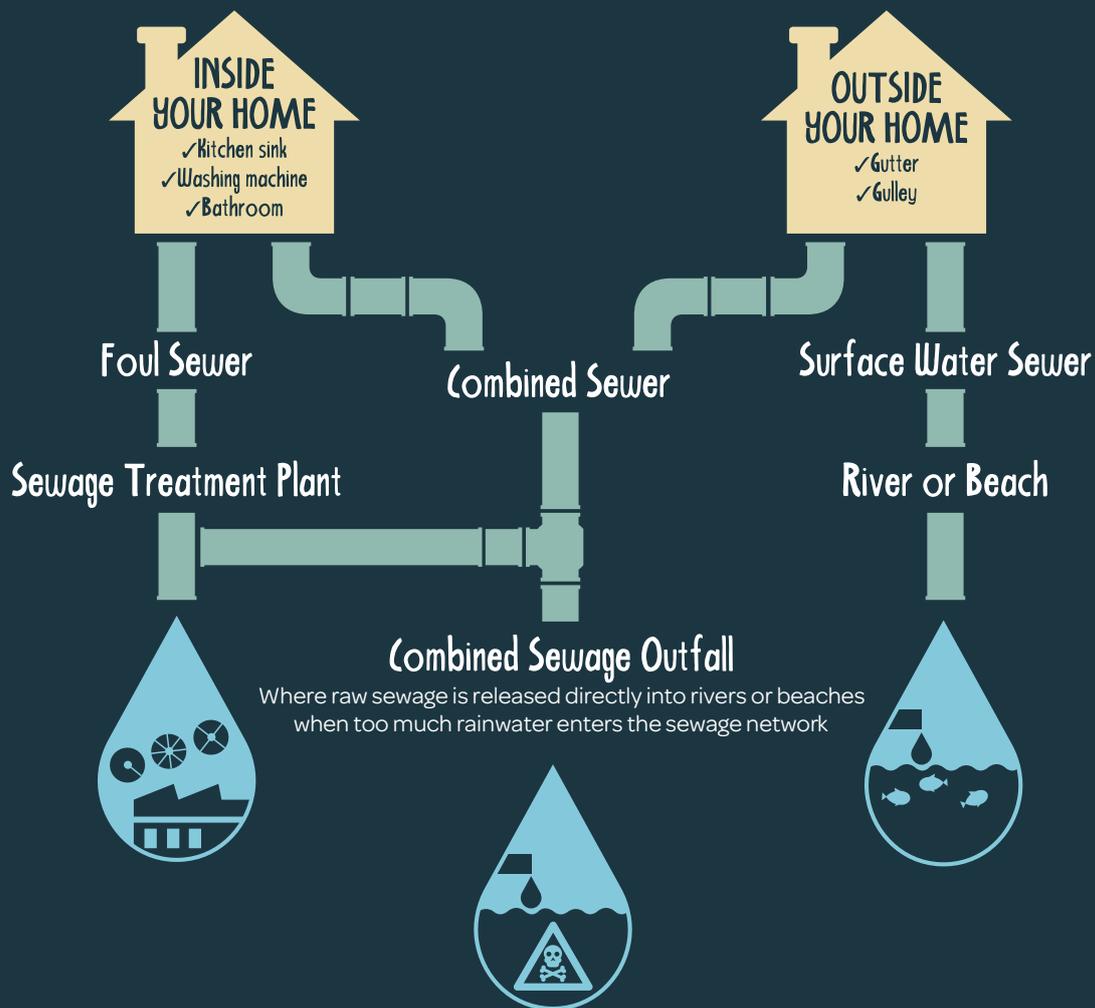


HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR DRAINS?

It is very easy to make things disappear down the drain, but have you ever thought about where it all ends up? There is a common misconception that everything you pour or flush away at home ends up in a sewage treatment plant, but that isn't quite how it works.



How does this affect you?

Whether your home is on a combined or separate sewer system, blockages can cause raw sewage to back up on to the street or worse still, into **your home**.

Clearing sewer blockages costs millions of pounds a year and this substantial cost is then passed on to you, the customer, in **your water bills**.

When sewer systems are overloaded during storms, untreated sewage is released straight into **your local river** or out to sea.

Part of the drains and sewers on your property are **your responsibility** and if you have a blockage you will have to pay for a plumber to resolve the problem. Visit www.connectright.org.uk for more information.

We can all help to reduce the pressure on our sewers

Have a look at the list below and see if you can change your habits at home to help stop our sewers from being overloaded and blocked, and reduce water pollution in your local rivers and beaches to make them cleaner and safer for people and wildlife.



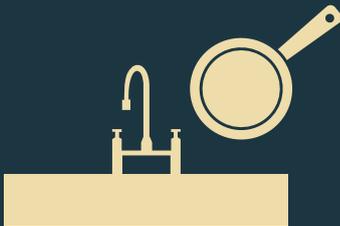
Water saving tips

- Choose eco cycle options on your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Fit a water-efficient showerhead.
- Reduce the amount of water you use to flush the toilet by using toilet blocks (e.g. 'Hippo the Water Saver') or retrofit a dual flush system.
- Use water butts or dig a pond in your garden to collect rainwater.
- Planning to pave your front garden? Use permeable paving materials which allow rainwater to trickle into the ground rather than flowing straight into the drain.
- Save money by diverting your rainwater to a soakaway and claim a rebate off your water bill.



Think before you flush

- Only the 3Ps should go down the toilet (pee, poo, and paper).
- Dispose of all other waste in the bin – this includes nappies, wet wipes, and sanitary products.
- Anything other than the 3Ps can block drains and cause overflowing sewers.
- Even 'flushable' wipes can cause your toilet to back up.



Think before you pour

- Up to 75% of sewer blockages in the UK are caused by fat, oil and grease.
- Do not put any fat, oil or grease down the sink.
- Use strainers in sink plug holes and put all your food scraps (even those coffee grounds) in the correct bin.



Only rain down the drain

- Use your local household waste site to dispose of chemicals, paints, cooking and motor oils.
- Go to www.gov.uk/hazardous-waste-disposal and enter your postcode to find your local site.

Have you seen or smelt anything foul in your local river?

Report water pollution to the Environment Agency's incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60

