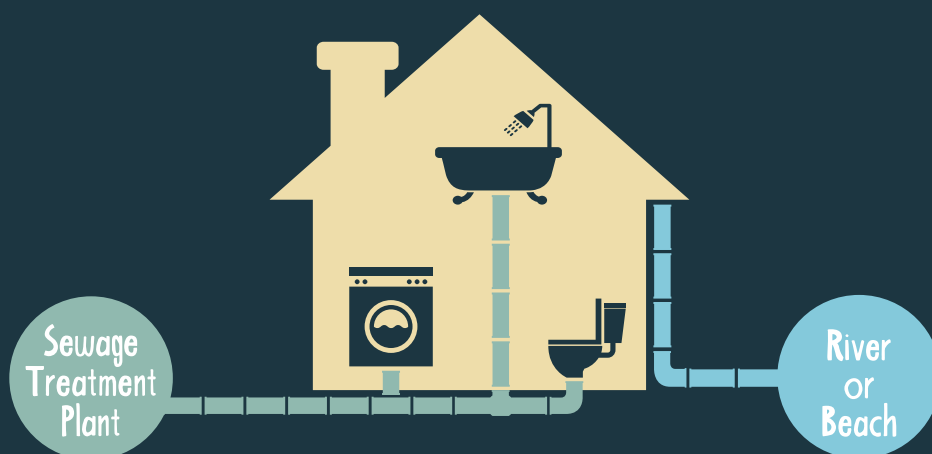




DOES YOUR HOME HAVE THE WRONG CONNECTIONS?

We want to reduce water pollution in your local rivers and beaches to make them cleaner and safer for people and wildlife. But we need your help. To prevent pollution, we need you to check whether your home has the correct plumbing.



How does this affect you?

If your plumbing at home is incorrect, dirty water could be draining straight into your local river or beach.

As the property owner you are responsible for fixing any faulty drainage connections, even if these were in place prior to you owning the property.

If you do not fix your faulty drains, you're directly affecting your local environment and could face a fine of up to...

£50,000

How do wrongly connected drains cause pollution?

If your house was built after 1920, your waste water is likely to drain into a separate sewer system allowing clean rainwater to drain to the surface water sewer and into a local river or beach.

If any dirty water pipes from appliances, sinks, showers or toilets are connected to the surface water system, this pollutes your local river or beach.

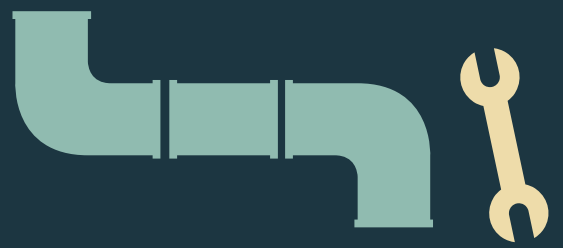
Similarly, if your gutters and gulleys are wrongly connected, they will be sending clean rainwater into the foul water sewer, overwhelming it and causing flooding.

This can happen when a new appliance is plumbed in, when a property is being extended or renovated, or even when it was originally built.

Help us keep your local rivers and beaches clean and healthy

Check you have the right connections in your home for all surface water and foul water plumbing. If you are unsure what to do, please visit www.connectright.org.uk for more information.





Getting the builders in?

If you are planning to have any renovation work done at home or simply getting your washing machine plumbed into a new space, it is very important to employ a quality assured trade person to undertake the work.

Research has shown that plumbers cause up to 80% of faulty drainage connections, so follow this checklist to make sure your plumber correctly connects your toilet, sink, bath, shower, dishwasher, washing machine and other appliances to the sewer network. It is illegal to plumb foul water into the surface water system.



Here are some useful tips to consider when undertaking renovation work

1

Was your house built after the 1920s?

If it was after the 1920s, it's likely that the rainwater from your guttering will go directly to a local river or beach. So it's really important that your plumber connects your waste water to pipes that drain to the sewage network.

2

Have there been changes to the original drainage of your property?

Check on the number of manholes and where the drains run. New manholes may mean the drainage has been altered, so discuss this with your plumber.

3

Do you know which of your drains go to a foul sewer and which go to a soakaway or a surface water drain?

Discuss this with your plumber before any work commences and make sure you are both confident that any new pipes will be taking dirty water away to a foul sewer.

4

Have there been any previous extensions or alterations to your house?

While your work is being undertaken, it may be possible to check that other pipes have been plumbed in correctly, and not just connected to the nearest available pipe or drain. This could include an outside toilet or appliances in garages, sheds and outbuildings.

5

Can you see any other pipes connected to rainwater downpipes?

Only rainwater should be going from guttering into your outside drains – anything else is illegal and can harm your local river or beach.

Useful Contacts

United Utilities customer services

Your local Water and Sewerage Company

0845 746 2200

Consumer Council for Water

An independent body providing free advice to consumers on their water sewerage services

0300 034 2222

Local Authority Building Control

A not-for-profit service providing expert advice on building regulations at competitive rates

0207 091 6860

WaterSafe.org.uk

A dedicated online search facility to help you find the nearest qualified plumbing and heating professionals in your local area. You can also call a team member on

0333 207 9030

