

Connecting to the Public Sewerage System

It is recommended that a connection to the public sewer may be made, on your behalf, by a competent contractor. The work must not commence, however, until approval has been given, any appropriate charges paid and any other conditions complied with. A Road Opening Certificate is required if the connection is to be made within a roadway verge or footpath. There are other conditions to consider when connecting to the Public Sewerage System as there are two basic types of Sewerage Systems:

Foul System

Foul sewers provide for discharge of wastewater from baths, toilet, wash hand basins and utility room appliances, from domestic properties and trade effluent from industry. Wastewater flows to a wastewater (sewage) disposal works for treatment and disposal.

Surface Water System

Rainwater from roofs, paved areas, areas within the curtilage of the development and roadways (subject to surface water system capacity availability) drains to a surface water sewer pipe which flows to a stream or river. It is not permitted to discharge foul sewage to a sewer designated for surface water or surface water into a sewer designated for foul sewage.

Combined Sewerage System

The practice in older towns was to provide a single system for dealing with foul and surface water run off. Many of the old town centre combined systems are nearing maximum hydraulic capacity and may only be suitable for connection of foul wastewater only. In circumstances where a surface water sewer is not available Northern Ireland Water may allow connection of surface water to a combined sewer on a temporary basis until a separate surface water sewer can be provided.

Northern Ireland Water policy is that all new development is designed on a separate system with all new drainage systems constructed on foul only and surface water only systems.

- **Guidance Notes: SC1-A163**
- **Application Form: SC2-A163**