

What can I do?

Check you have the right connection in your home for all surface water and foul plumbing. If you are unsure what to do, please visit www.connectright.org.uk for more information and to find contact details for a trusted plumber near you.

DO

- **Do** connect toilets, sinks, baths, washing machines or dishwashers to the foul water drain.
- **Do** check your drains. If they are wrongly connected, put them right.
- **Do** ensure that, if you are buying a house, there are no wrong connections. Ask your surveyor or contractor to include this in their survey report.

To Avoid Blockages

DON'T

- **Don't** dispose of cooking fats, oils and greases, motor oil, chemicals, paint and detergents to surface water drains or road gullies. Instead, use your local civic amenity site for the disposal of this type of waste. Details of this can be found on your local council's website.
- **Don't** dispose of household items such as nappies, cotton buds, razors, sanitary items and syringes down the toilet as this waste goes to foul water drains which then go to wastewater treatment works. Use your household bin to dispose of these items safely and hygienically.

Bag it and Bin it

Don't put rubbish down your toilet. Dispose of household items such as nappies, cotton buds, wet, baby and cleaning wipes, razors, sanitary items and syringes in the bin as these block drains and cause overflowing sewers.

<https://www.niwater.com/sitefiles/resources/education/dirty-dozen.pdf>

Make the right connection and keep rivers and beaches clean for everyone to enjoy.

Useful contacts

Northern Ireland Water
General Enquiry Line:
Waterline
03457 44 00 88

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Water Pollution Hotline:
0800 80 70 60



Department for
Infrastructure
An Roinn
Bonneagair
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk



DRAINAGE MISCONNECTIONS

What are drains?

Every property has underground pipes connected to it within the site. These are called drains and take untreated wastewater and rainwater away from the property.

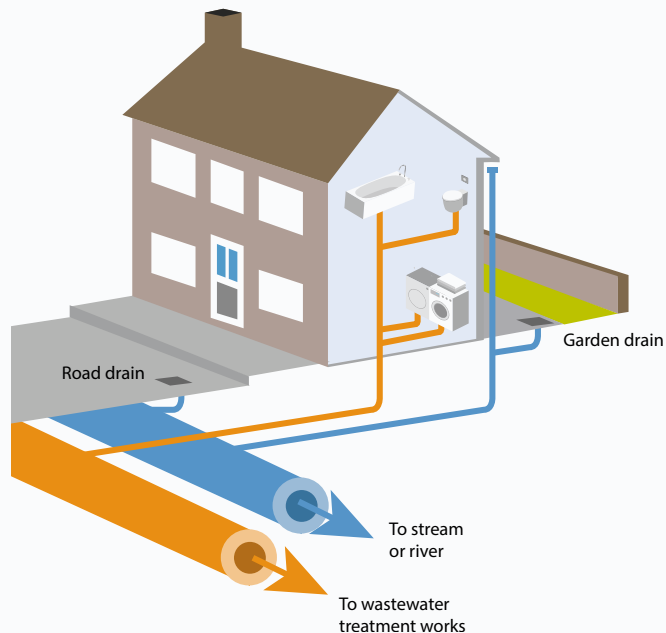
What types of drains are there?

Surface Water Drains

This type of drain collects the rainwater from our roofs, driveways and roads and discharges into our rivers.

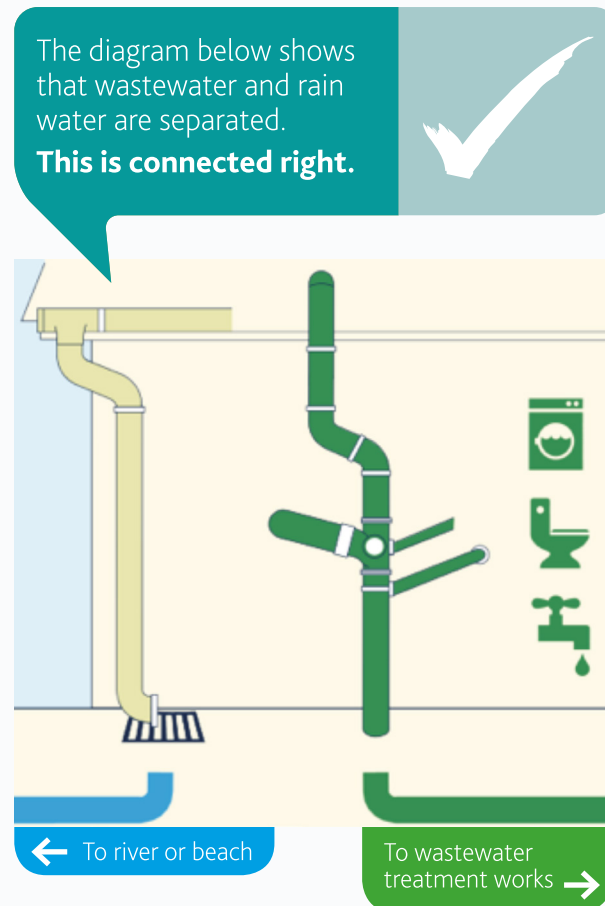
Foul Sewer Drains

This type of drain collects wastewater from homes and businesses and takes it to the local wastewater treatment works. This wastewater comes from toilets, sinks, washing machines, dishwashers etc.



How could my house be causing pollution?

For most houses built after 1970, the waste water drains into a separate sewer system allowing clean rainwater to flow to the surface water drain and into a local river or beach. Misconnections occur where a foul water flow is connected in error to a surface water drain. Foul discharges to surface water drains result in untreated wastewater going directly to your local river and may end up on beaches.



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.

Similarly, if gutters and gulleys are wrongly connected, they will be sending clean rainwater into the foul water drain, overwhelming it and causing flooding and untreated wastewater going directly to rivers and beaches.

To find out more visit www.connectright.org.uk

