

River polluted by household misconnections

River free from pollution caused by misconnections

A toilet waste pipe is usually larger in diameter than a roof drainpipe and often has an air vent at the top.

A roof drainpipe is connected to the roof gutter and carries rainwater to the surface water drain

WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANIES

- Anglian Water..... 0845 714 5145
- Dwr Cymru Water..... 0800 085 3968
- Northumbrian Water..... 0845 717 1100
- Scottish Water..... 0845 601 8855
- Severn Trent Water..... 0800 783 4444
- South West Water..... 0800 169 1144
- Southern Water..... 0845 278 0845
- Thames Water..... 0845 920 0800
- United Utilities Water..... 0845 746 2200
- Wessex Water..... 0845 600 3600
- Yorkshire Water..... 0845 124 2424

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE

08708 506 506

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY EMERGENCY HOTLINE

0800 80 70 60



If unsure of your local drainage system contact your local Water and Sewerage Company who will be able to assist you.

Are
YOU
polluting
rivers
and
streams



'if it isn't rain - it's waste'

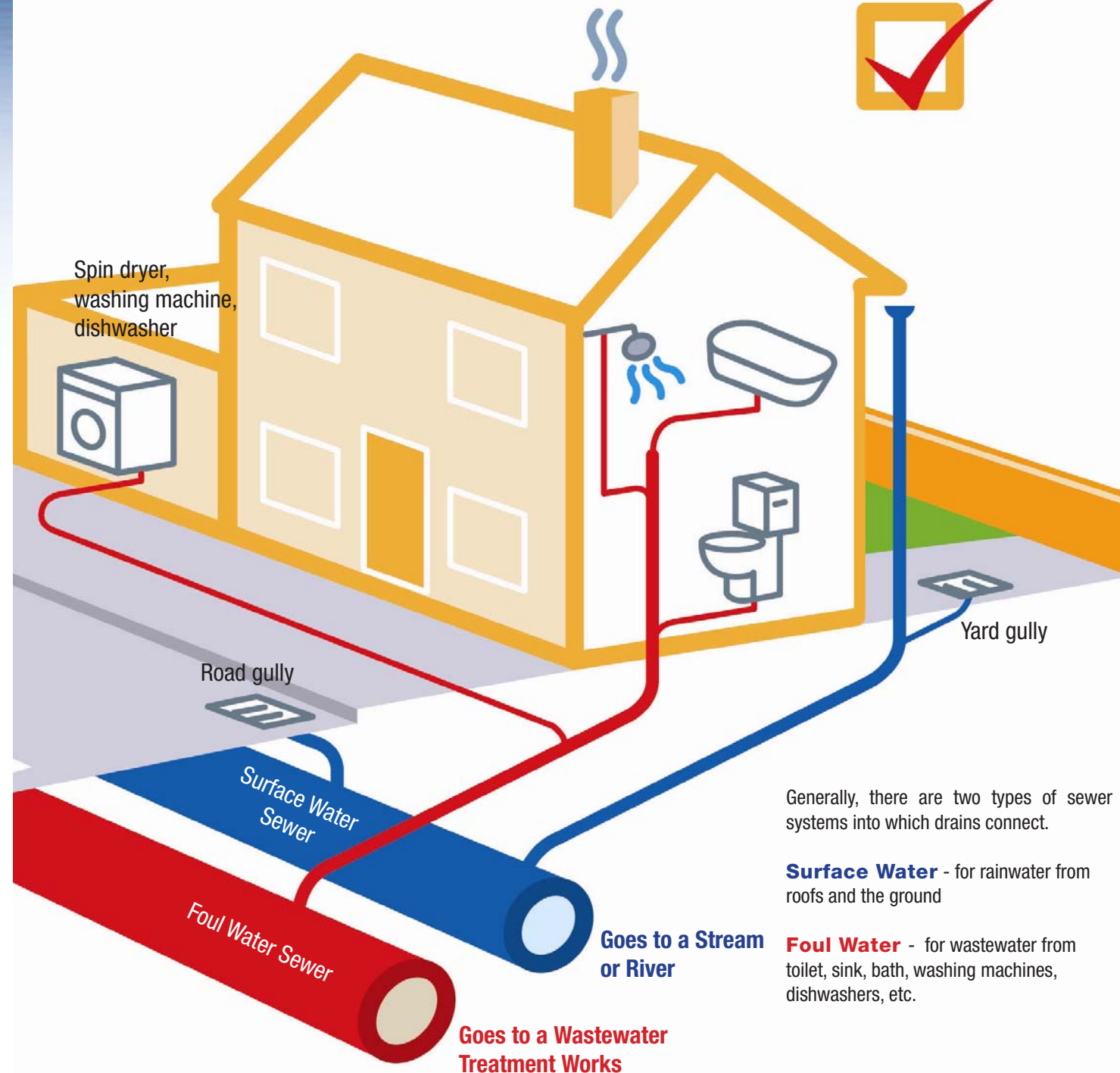
Pollution to streams and rivers is an environmental issue that affects us all. Most houses drain to a dual sewer system as shown here. The main risk to the environment is that wastewater is sometimes wrongly connected into the surface water system which eventually discharges to a local river or streams. This can range from something as simple as a wrongly connected washing machine or dishwasher to something more serious, such as toilet waste feeding into surface water drains.

Misconnections can occur when a house is extended, when people make other home improvements or when a new house is built. Untreated wastewater from misconnections can flow straight into your local river or stream instead of going to the foul sewer and the local wastewater treatment works. If you fail to take corrective action you could be prosecuted by the Environment Agency or your local authority.

Legally it is always the person who causes the pollution that is responsible. For misconnections this would be you as the homeowner. In the majority of cases fixing the problem is often simple. Also if you are looking to buy a property make sure you do not take on the seller's mistakes - you could ask for the drainage to be checked in a survey when purchasing. If you are doing any work to your house involving plumbing or drainage, make sure you connect correctly - otherwise it could hold up a sale or be expensive to fix.

Wrong connections are not only harmful to the environment, they are illegal. Pollution from misconnections kills plants and fish, creates an unpleasant smell and is an eyesore. It can also cause health risks to the local community, particularly to children and animals.

CORRECT CONNECTIONS ILLUSTRATED



Helpful Hints

Do!

Connect toilets, sinks, baths, washing machines or dishwashers to the wastewater sewer.

Check your drains. If they are wrongly connected, put them right.

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.

Don't!

Dispose of cooking fats, oils and greases, motor oil, chemicals, paint and detergents to surface water drains or road gullies. Use your local civic amenity site for the disposal of this type of waste.

Dispose of household items such as nappies, cotton buds, razors, tampons 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.

Please!

Make the right connection and keep rivers and streams clean for us all to enjoy.

Generally, there are two types of sewer systems into which drains connect.

Surface Water - for rainwater from roofs and the ground

Foul Water - for wastewater from toilet, sink, bath, washing machines, dishwashers, etc.