



Correct common home plumbing defects

Save your rain in 3 easy steps!

You can check your place to make sure your rain water goes to the storm water system and not your sewer pipes. Use this action plan to check the sewer connections at your home.

SAVE YOUR RAIN
Stamp out sewer inflow



1. CHECK YOUR OVERFLOW RELIEF GULLY

what is it

An overflow relief gully (ORG) is a plumbing fitting located outside your home that is designed to release wastewater if a pipe becomes blocked or the wastewater network is overloaded. If this occurs, the ORG grate should pop off and wastewater is then directed away from your home.



find it

Look for your ORG outside - it may be near the kitchen, laundry, bathrooms or the garage.

Houses with several bathrooms may have more than one ORG.

check it

Plumbing regulations require ORGs to be installed at least 150mm below the lowest internal drain fixture (usually a floor waste or shower drain) to prevent internal wastewater surcharges, and 75mm above the surrounding finished ground level.

The exception to this is where the gully riser is located in a path or paved area. In this case, the ORG must be finished at a level that will prevent rainwater from entering the wastewater network in wet weather.

fix it

If your ORG is incorrectly installed, contact a licensed plumber to raise the ORG to the correct height, if possible. If the ORG cannot be raised because of the height of the internal floor waste, other options (landscaping, drainage) will need to be considered.

Next time it's raining, inspect the area around the ORG to ensure that stormwater can flow away. If water pools around the ORG, adjust the landscaping or remove the obstacle.





2. CHECK YOUR PROPERTY'S INSPECTION SHAFT

what is it

An inspection shaft is designed to help you determine if a wastewater blockage has occurred within or outside your property (i.e. if the shaft is clear, it is likely that a blockage is within your household drainage system). You are responsible for ensuring that the inspection shaft on your property is visible and in working order.



find it

Inspection shafts are located outside your home, usually near your property boundary and adjacent to a connection with Council's sewer main. Inspection shafts are usually identified by a flat plastic or cast iron round lid (about 18cm in diameter) within a concrete surround.

check it

You are responsible for ensuring that the inspection shaft on your property is visible and is not damaged. The shaft lid should be in working order.

fix it

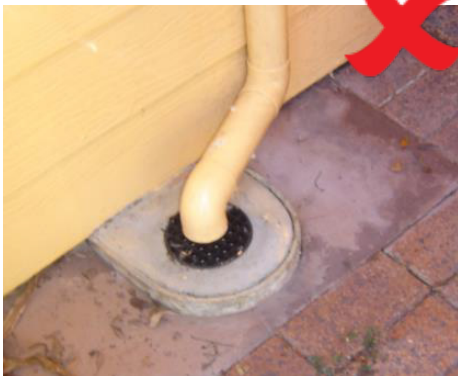
A plumber can supply replacement lids in different sizes.

If other parts of the fitting (or bolted trap screw) are damaged, they may need to be replaced.

3. CHECK YOUR ROOF'S GUTTER AND DOWNPIPE

what is it

Downpipes should direct rain water from the roof of your house to the stormwater pipes for discharge to street gutters and drains. It is illegal for your home's roofwater downpipes, or other drainage pipes, to discharge directly into the wastewater network (into your ORG).



find it

The downpipe runs vertically from your guttering (around the edge of your roofline).

check it

Discharge water into your downpipe and look for the point where the water flows out. If no point of discharge can be found there might be an illegal connection.

fix it

Contact a licensed plumber to redirect your downpipes, or other drainage pipes, to a legal point of discharge such as a roadside kerb, approved installed roofwater discharge point or on-site rubble pit.