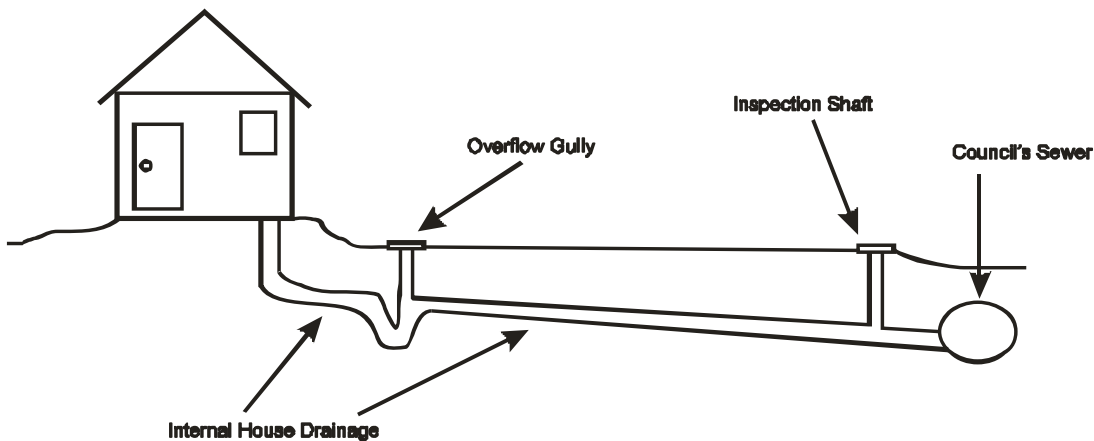


YOUR SEWER - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Most residential properties are connected to Council's sewer system via a single junction into each lot. The connections have identifiable points for access, inspection, repair and surcharge (overflow). The following information and advice is provided to assist owners to evaluate sewer problems and reduce surface water inflow and groundwater infiltration into Council's Sewer.

MAJOR COMPONENTS OF TYPICAL HOUSEHOLDER SEWER

INTERNAL HOUSE DRAINAGE

This includes all internal sewer drains throughout the premises that gravitate down to the inspection shaft. Owners are responsible for repair and maintenance of internal house drains including the inspection shaft.

OVERFLOW GULLY

These are usually an external loose grated lid to allow sewage to surcharge (overflow) if a blockage or significant wet weather occurs. This should prevent surcharge within your premise. Installation should be a minimum of 75mm above ground level to prevent surface water flowing in. It is important that these points are not buried or covered.

Some Examples of Overflow Gullies



INSPECTION SHAFTS

Inspection Shafts are important points in the sewer line and are normally identified by a flat PVC or CAST IRON round disk approximately 180mm in diameter (normally with a concrete surround to protect it from damage). They are located on your property and is usually near a boundary that is adjacent to Council's Sewer Main. All property owners should be aware of where their inspection shaft is located. You are responsible for maintaining it in a visible and working condition. Inspection Shafts are installed to enable property owners to make a quick assessment of who they should notify to clear a blockage. In the case of a sewerage blockage e.g. (if your

toilet, sink, shower or washing machine water does not drain away) carefully remove the PVC or CAST IRON cover. If the sewer line inspection shaft is empty at this point, the blockage must be in the House Drainage. It is the responsibility of the property owner to have the blockage cleared by a Licenced Plumber at the owners cost. If the Inspection Shaft is full or partly full it is likely to be the responsibility of Council to clear the blockage. In this case, Council can be notified on 02 666 00 300 to attend.

Some Examples of Inspections Shafts



DO	DON'T
<p>Internal House drains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep floor waste sumps and U-trap topped up with water to prevent smell 	<p>Internal House drains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't put the following objects into sewer: Toys, nappies, sanitary products, glass, kitty litter or aquarium sand, flammable material or strong chemicals
<p>Overflow gully (yard gully)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do keep gully topped up with water Ensure gully is free to surcharge (overflow) Ensure surcharge point is 75mm above ground level 	<p>Overflow gully (yard gully)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't place objects over the grated lid Don't cover or fill or build over grated lid Don't allow stormwater to flow into system Don't put the following objects into sewer: Toys, nappies, sanitary products, glass, kitty litter or aquarium sand, flammable material or strong chemicals
<p>Inspection Shaft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do locate and keep the shaft cover clear Do always replace cover after use Do have any damage to shaft cover repaired Do notify Council if shaft is blocked 	<p>Inspection Shaft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't allow foreign objects to be placed into shaft Don't build structures over inspection shaft Don't bury under driveways or in gardens Don't allow stormwater to be directed into the inspection shaft Don't damage or leave cover unsealed. This will release odour and result in wet weather overflow Don't plant large shrubs or trees adjacent to the shafts as these will cause damage to the shaft and the tree will have to be removed at owner's cost

STORMWATER
 Stormwater includes water collected on roofs, gutters, down pipes, driveways, lawns and any surface water resulting from rainfall. The discharge of stormwater into Council's Sewerage System is illegal. Council does have methods for detection of illegal connections and discharges. Periodic surveys are completed in the Richmond Valley Council area to identify illegal discharges to sewer. Household owners are required to rectify defects and any failure to comply may lead to a penalty of up to \$5,500 and cost recovery to undertake repairs.