

Did you know that there are three different types of drains which take water away from you house?

Foul (wastewater) drains

- this is where the waste from your toilet, dishwashers and sinks should go. From your drain, it goes to a wastewater treatment works where it's treated so it can go safely back into our rivers and the sea.

Surface water drains -

when it rains, the water falling on buildings and pavements has to go somewhere, these drains direct it to rivers and the sea as it doesn't need to be treated. **Combined drains** - these are usually found in older properties where the foul water and surface water go into the same drain, which is then taken to the wastewater treatment works.

We know this is a bit confusing, but sometimes we find that houses have connected their toilet, shower, washing machine or dishwasher to the wrong drain. They should be connected to the foul drain which will take the dirty water away for treatment, but are connected to the surface water drain instead, which

water from toilets, sinks, washing machines etc

means the dirty water goes straight into local streams, rivers and the sea. So that our beautiful local streams, rivers and beaches stay clean and healthy (this means happy fish too), we're asking people to check that your loos, showers, washing machines and dishwashers are all plumbed into the right drains. This diagram below shows how your drains should look, if they don't, you may have a misconnection. You can also follow the guide online at: www.connectright.org.uk



Houses built after 1920 generally connect to separate sewer systems

Garden drain

Surface water - for clean rainwater from roofs and ground runoff

Foul water - for dirty

treatment works

Planning an extension? Moving your washing machine?

Always make sure that you're connected to the right drain - a reputable plumber will do this for you.

If you're not sure – see www.unitedutilities.com/preventing-water-pollution-from-your-home for help and advice.



