

Applying for a sewer connection

Introduction

Under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991, the owner of any domestic property is entitled to have foul and surface water from their property connected to the public sewerage system.

Before applying to United Utilities for permission to make a connection to the public sewer you should obtain approval for your drainage layout from a Building Control body and if required you should also obtain Local Authority planning approval.

Foul water from your property may only be connected to an existing foul or combined sewer. Surface water from the property should be connected to an existing surface water sewer where one is available or to a combined sewer.

The process

After reading this guide, you should complete the form 'Application to connect to the public sewer' Part 1 and return this with all the requested supporting documents.

On receipt of your application you will get a confirmation and a unique reference number.

This will be used by us to complete the technical appraisal of your submission and to give approval to the type of connection.

Once Part 1 of the application form has been approved, you may then appoint a contractor to complete Part 2 of the application.

Once Part 2 of the application has been granted, your contractor will have permission to make the connection.

We will inspect the work on the public sewer at an agreed time to make sure that this is carried out satisfactorily and to our standards. Please see technical notes Connection types.

There is a charge payable to United Utilities for the service which is non-refundable, please see application form for details. **Your application will not be processed until payment is received.**

If you wish for further advice please contact us via our email address wastewaterdeveloperservices@uuplc.co.uk

Documents required

Application to connect to the public sewer PART 1

- Please be aware that your application will only cover ONE connection (this includes one foul and one surface). Further connections will require additional application forms to be completed.
- Complete Application form
- Location Plan (including site address, post code or x and y co-ordinates)

- A site drainage plan showing the point of connection clearly labelled on your plan or indicated in a key format
- Copy of your planning decision notice (if you are exempt from building regulations, please provide proof)
- Flow rates for surface water (if applicable see form)
- Payment of the application fee

PART 2

- Complete application form
- Evidence of confined space entry training - (please see form for acceptable criteria)
- Manhole Details
- Evidence of public liability insurance (min £5 million) – see form

Technical notes

a) Approval

Permission must be obtained from United Utilities for any new direct or indirect connection to the public sewer. In addition, approval of the method to be used in making any direct connection will be required.

Under no circumstances should any person break into the public sewer without written approval from United Utilities.

b) Connection types

Direct connections may be at a manhole (new or existing) or by the insertion of a preformed oblique junction into the sewer pipe. The use of saddle connections will only be permitted where the existing sewer is 375mm or greater in diameter, and the new connection must be at least 150mm smaller in diameter than the sewer pipe to which you propose to connect, for a maximum of 3 properties.

All new manholes must be constructed in line with United Utilities Standards which details can be provided upon request.

The type of connection will generally be in accordance with the existing network, for example a separate or combined system of drainage.

All connections should be made using the correct tools for the job, for example saddle connections to the main sewer is to be core drilled. The contractor is also to take all precautions not to allow any debris to enter the public sewer.

Any damage to the public sewer as a result of the connection works will be rectified by United Utilities and re-charged to the applicant at cost.

Connections may be made to private lateral drains or to existing drains. A Part 1 approval does not give permission to access third party land. The applicant must seek permission from the relevant land owner.

For further information



[unitedutilities.com/builders-developers](https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers)

Email: WastewaterDeveloperServices@uuplc.co.uk



**United Utilities
Developer Services,
Grasmere House,
Lingley Mere Business Park,
Lingley Green Avenue,
Great Sankey, Warrington
WA5 3LP**

The Inspection of connections to a private drain will be carried out by Building Control bodies, not by United Utilities. For further details and diagrams, please refer to our Standard Connections Details document.

c) Plans Required

Your Location Plan should be to scale clearly showing the position of the site. A Site Plan (to the scale) detailing the proposed drains for the property, the area to be drained for surface water and the points of connection to the public sewerage system. The drawings should include the finished floor levels.

d) Foul and surface water drainage

Only domestic foul sewerage will be permitted to be discharged to the public foul sewer. Surface water derived from the premises (and with specific agreement, highways) may be discharged to a public surface water sewer, if one is available. Calculations of surface water flow rates will be required.

Flow calculations: Surface water discharge rates are required for the proposed development. The calculation is based on 50mm per hour intensity rainfall using the 'rational method' of calculation.

e) Trade effluent

Separate approval must be obtained for the discharge to the public sewer of any trade effluent from a factory, manufacturing or commercial process. If you do not have this consent then we will process your application form and return it with a reference number called a 'SPID'. You will need this reference number to apply separately for the consent through a retailer of wastewater services who will apply to us on your behalf. A list of retailers can be found via the Market Operator here: <https://www.mosl.co.uk/members/member-list/>

A copy of the consent will need to be sent back to us with any other outstanding information that we have requested.

f) Contractors

Contactors working on the public sewer system will be subject to the Confined Spaces Regulations 1997. The contractor should satisfy the following criteria where appropriate:

- Be formally trained in working in confined spaces to SAQ, City and Guilds standards or CABWI Level 2 Award in working in medium or high risk confined spaces of the Water Industry (6150-02 or 6150-03).
- Competent to carry out the works
- Provide adequate insurance (£5 million public liability insurance).

Section f applies only where work will be carried out on the public sewer. Completion of the Part 2 application form will demonstrate all of the above.

Sewerage data

Composition

The exact composition of a particular sewerage is indefinable and varies between sites and throughout time. Sources of sewage include domestic wastewater, industrial trade effluents, rainfall run-off and infiltration.

About 99% of sewage water, with the remaining 1% consisting of organic and inorganic chemicals, gases from decomposition of organic wastes, solids and biological constituents of both animal and microbiological nature.

Specific Hazards

- Infection from pathogens through ingestion or open wounds
- Chemical toxicity from trade effluents
- Explosions from methane gas or other vapours
- Leptospirosis (Weil's disease)
- Hepatitis A

Further information

A Guidance document for completing Part 2 of the application form is available on request.

Locating your nearest sewer

It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate the exact relationship between any United Utilities' assets and the proposed development.

A number of providers offer a paid for mapping service including United Utilities. To find out how to purchase a sewer and water plan from United Utilities, please visit the Property Searches website: unitedutilities.com/property-searches

You can also view the plans for free. To make an appointment to view our sewer records at your local authority please contact them direct, alternatively if you wish to view the water and the sewer records at our Lingley Mere offices based in Warrington please ring 0370 751 0101 to book an appointment.

Due to the public sewer transfer in 2011, not all sewers are currently shown on the statutory sewer records and we do not always show private pipes on our plans.

Notifications of work on site

Upon approval of Part 2 of the application we require at least five working days notice when work on site is to be carried out in order to arrange for inspections. Please allow sufficient time to gain the necessary approval before commencing work on the public sewer.

Under no circumstances should the connection be covered over until a United Utilities appointed person has inspected the works. If the connection has been covered over or is not ready for inspection at the appointed time, United Utilities will be entitled to recover from applicant costs incurred in exposing the works and making good any defects if necessary.

Contact Us

You can contact us via email at: wastewaterdeveloperservices@uuplc.co.uk

Or through our main call centre **0345 072 6067**

About us

United Utilities is the North West's water company. We keep the taps flowing and toilets flushing for seven million customers every day. From Crewe to Carlisle, we work hard behind the scenes to help your life flow smoothly.