

Help prevent sewer system blockages and overflows by putting your waste in the right place

Bin It. Don't Block It.



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
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Making progress possible. Together.

Get rid of your waste properly to avoid blocked toilets, drains, sinks and sewer system pipes



Unwanted food belongs in the bin, not down the sink, drain or toilet. Fruit and vegetable waste and egg shells can be used to make compost.



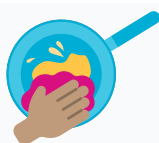
Don't flush rags and newspapers. These objects don't break down.



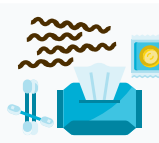
Bin peels or make compost with them. Peels don't decompose quickly, they get stuck in the pipes causing blockages.



Don't flush nappies and sanitary products, they absorb water and expand, which causes blockages.



Wipe cooking fats, oil or grease off the pan, and don't pour it down the drain or toilet.



Wipes, earbuds, condoms and hair are small but they clump together with other objects and cause blockages.



Put a strainer in the sink to catch food or other waste before it goes down the drain and creates blockages.



Check that rainwater gutters don't flow into the sewer system, as it overloads the pipes, causing sewer overflows.

When your cooking involves butter or animal fats, the fatty fluid left in the pot or pan gets hard when it cools down. When you pour fat down the drain or toilet, it collects and hardens on the inside of the drain pipes, acting like a glue to anything that flows past. This causes pipes to block up over time. Keep fats and oils out of our sewers.

Dumping rubbish into a plumbing system not designed for foreign waste causes sewer blockages and overflows

This impacts all of us:

Manholes with missing covers are used as dumping zones and can collect sand and litter blown in by the wind, causing sewer blockages.

An overflowing sewer runs into our stormwater drains and contaminates our rivers, streams and canals.

The contaminated water poses a threat to our health and the environment.

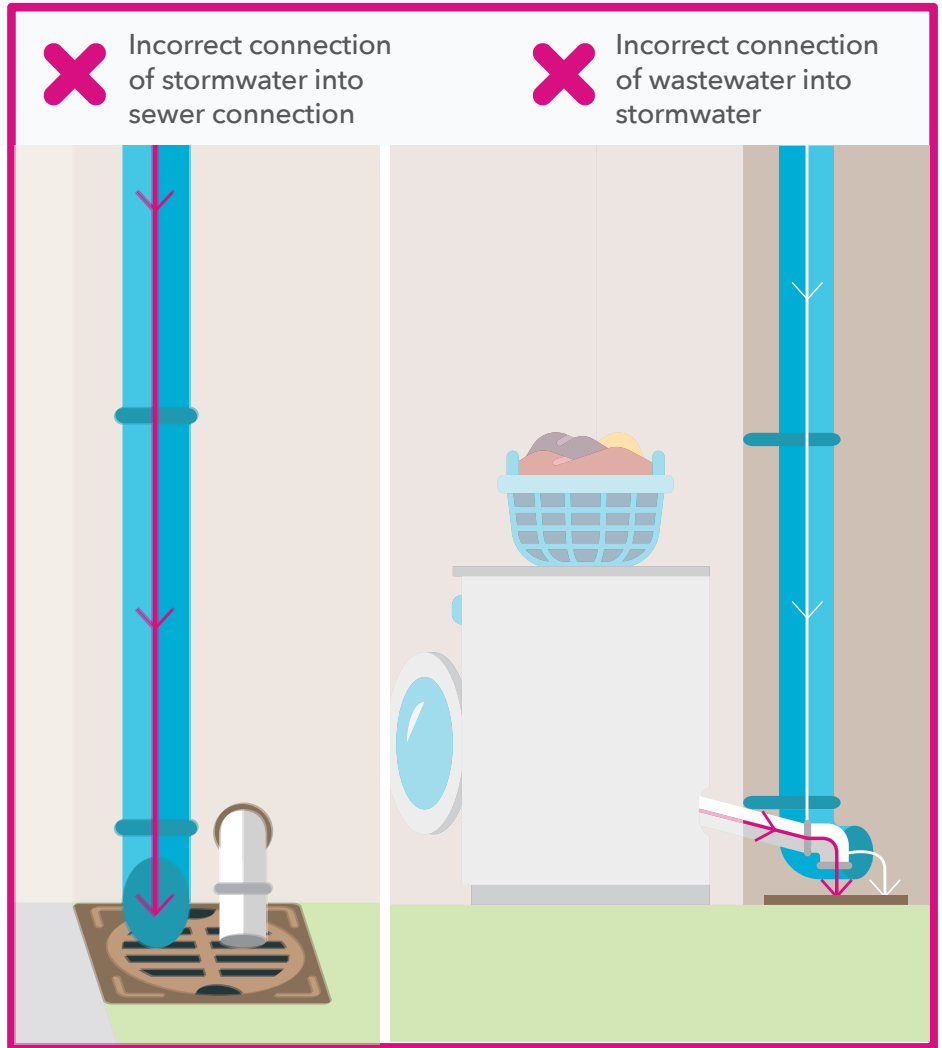
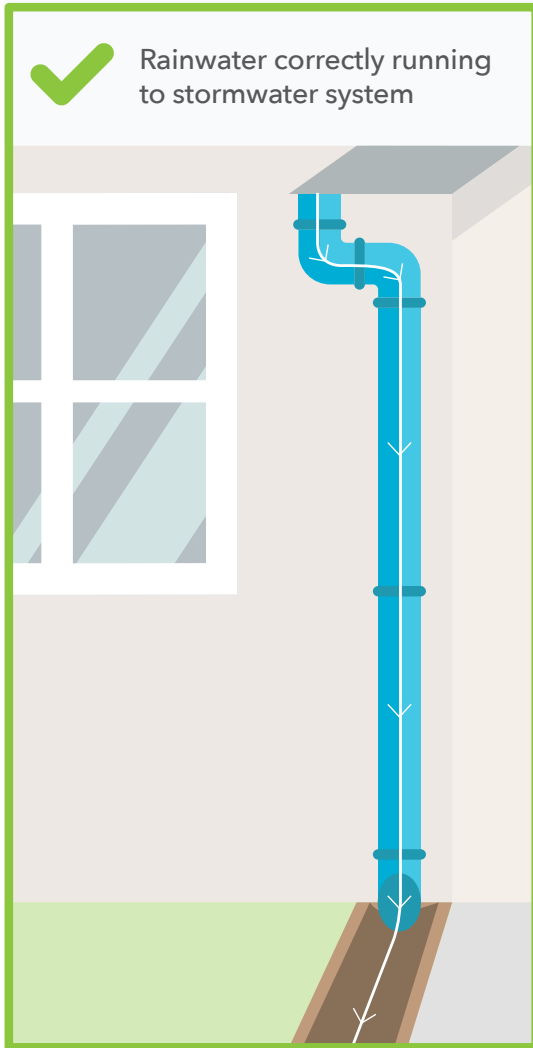
Overflowing sewers attract disease and pollute our air with unpleasant smells.

Fixing blocked sewers is a cost that can be avoided or reduced.

Channel the rainwater from your gutters/roof to the stormwater system

Don't direct rainwater into the sewer system where it can cause overflows - especially at times of heavy rainfall. If you don't want excess rainwater on your property, rather make a channel or pipe it further to run into the street and down into the stormwater system.

Only rainwater is allowed in the stormwater drains, not your used grey water or wastewater. (Many people also store some rainwater to use for activities like cleaning vehicles, windows and hard surfaces, and for the garden etc.)



For more information:

Visit the Solid Waste Management section of the City's website for waste drop-off sites and related information.
www.capetown.gov.za/blocked-sewers

Important contact information

Report sewer blockages, missing drain covers, vandalism, burst pipes, leaks and water waste using **one of the following options**. Give the street address, and get a reference number.

Online www.capetown.gov.za/servicerequests

Email water@capetown.gov.za

SMS 31373 (Maximum 160 characters)

Call 0860 103 089

Visit a **City walk-in centre**, see www.capetown.gov.za/facilities

Call 0860 103 089 to report flooding, roads and stormwater issues, illegal dumping, and the removal of dead animals (only on public land and roads). Choose Option 1.

