



Proper use of Drains



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

An Agency wí'in the Depairtment o
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

“Only rain down the drain!”

What are drains?

Every property has underground pipes connected to it. These are called drains and take sewage or rainwater away from the property.

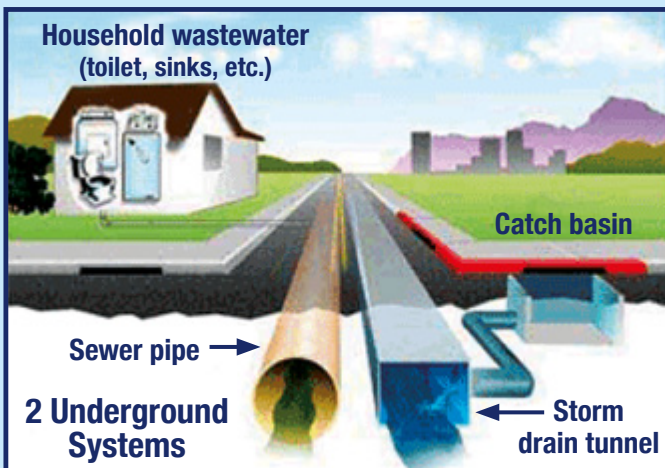
What types of drains are there?

Surface Water Drains

- this system collects the rainwater from our roofs, driveways, roads and drains into **OUR** rivers.

Foul Sewer drains

- this system collects waste water from homes and businesses and takes it to the local waste water treatment works.



Some examples of polluting materials discharged from our storm water drains are:

- Oil
- Paint Washings
- Cleaning Materials
- Pesticides
- Fertilisers
- Dyes and Inks
- Effluent from misconnected toilets and/or washing machines and dishwashers

In addition to these pollutants, litter such as plastic bags, cans, bottles and other debris can harm aquatic life.



What are the effects of these polluting discharges?

Polluted water can:

- Kill aquatic wildlife;
- Cause habitat destruction;
- Cause poor water quality;
- Ruin the amenity value of the river.

It is a criminal offence to cause water pollution

Fine of up to **£20,000**

Up to **3 months** prison sentence

Clean up costs



What can I do to stop this Pollution?

Do

Identify all the storm drains on your property.



Do

Make sure all your storm drains are unblocked to allow only the rain water to flow through.



Don't

Put anything down the storm drain except rain water.



Don't

Store any chemicals, oils, detergents, or other pollutants beside a storm drain.



Don't

Discharge any vehicle washings down a storm drain.



How do I get more Information?

What if I see any water pollution?

Call the Water Pollution Hotline

0800 80 70 60

Yellow Fish Campaign



The Yellow Fish campaign is a marking system to help promote and educate others regarding the use of storm drains. Such drains will be stencilled with a yellow fish design.

This is a clear indication that the water in these drains is untreated before discharge to the river. In Northern Ireland the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is currently assisting and encouraging businesses to participate in this scheme.

Our aim is to protect, conserve and promote the natural and built environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
17 Antrim Road, Tonagh,
Lisburn BT28 3AL

Email: nieapollutionprevention@daera-ni.gov.uk
Web: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/pollution-prevention-and-niea

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