

# Down the drain

## Did you know?

Fats, oils and grease can solidify in pipes, making it difficult for water to flow.

Small items such as produce stickers, tea leaves and ground coffee can stick to built-up grease or get caught in screens and filters. If blockages occur you might need to call a plumber.

Chemicals and paint products are bad for waterways.

## So don't wash or flush these down the sink or toilet

- Fats and oils
- Food scraps
- Tea leaves and ground coffee
- Produce stickers
- Unused medications
- Toxic chemicals
- Eggshells
- Paint
- Baby wipes and disposable nappies
- Cotton balls and buds
- Cigarette butts
- Plastic bags
- Sanitary products and condoms

## Handy hints

- Use a sink strainer to prevent any food scraps from washing down the drain.
- Scrape food scraps into your rubbish bin before washing dishes.
- Pour cooking oils and fats into a container, then seal the container and place it in your rubbish bin.
- Use paper towel to soak up any residual cooking oil in pots and pans before washing them.
- Wash paint brushes out in the garden.
- Use biodegradable washing powder and cleaners
- Always dispose of sanitary products, condoms, nappies, baby wipes and other items in the bin
- Return unused medications to your local community pharmacy for disposal.

## Further information

Contact your local council or water service provider.

# Water's journey to your tap and beyond



# It takes more than a tap to run your water

It takes an extensive network of pipes and advanced treatment methods to deliver clean, safe water supplies. Water is collected and treated, then pumped to storage tanks, usually at high points, so it can be fed by gravity to your property.

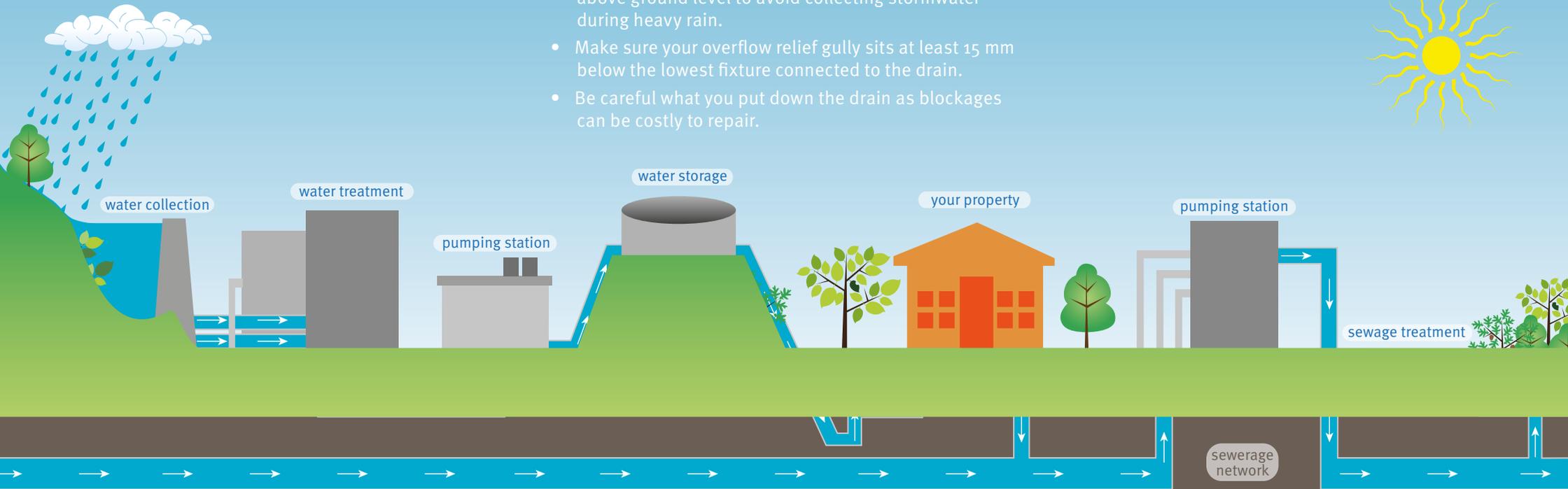
# Your pipes and plumbing

As a property owner, you are responsible for maintaining all the water and wastewater pipes on your property that is, everything on your side of the water meter. This includes the cost of any repairs to, as well as any damage caused by, the pipes on your property.

- Make sure stormwater pipes do not drain rainwater from your roof gutters into the sewerage system.
- Check that stormwater in your yard does not build and flood your overflow relief gully\*.
- Make sure your overflow relief gully sits at least 75 mm above ground level to avoid collecting stormwater during heavy rain.
- Make sure your overflow relief gully sits at least 15 mm below the lowest fixture connected to the drain.
- Be careful what you put down the drain as blockages can be costly to repair.

# Beyond the drain

In most cases, one provider is responsible for supplying water and managing sewage for a property. Sewage management includes collecting, transporting, treating and monitoring waste as well as returning treated wastewater to the environment.



\* An overflow relief gully is a water trap installed in a property's sewerage system to prevent sewage overflow. If you have any concerns about the overflow relief gully at your property, contact a licensed plumber.