

Mis-connected drains pollute our rivers

Following a recent scrutiny review which looked at flood resilience in the District, a surprising fact was highlighted that one in ten houses have mis-connected drains and could pollute local waterways and cause flooding.

For most houses built after 1920, the waste water drains into a separate foul sewer taking it to a sewage treatment works for clean-up, allowing clean rainwater to drain to the surface water sewer and straight to a local river.

Sometimes builders, plumbers or householders wrongly connect pipes, which carry waste water from toilets, baths, showers, sinks, washing machines or dishwashers, to the surface water system instead of the foul sewerage system. The dirty waste water could then be draining straight into your local river. Similarly, if gutters and gulleys are wrongly connected, they will be sending clean rainwater into the foul water sewer, overwhelming it and causing flooding. This increases costs which impact on all our water bills.

It's the home owner's responsibility to ensure there are no mis-connections at their property, so if you're buying a new home it's very important to make sure this is checked.

The **ConnectRight** campaign is asking local property owners to check their drainage connections and where there are mis-connections to take action to connect drains correctly. You can visit the website for details on how to check your drainage connections and contact a local **WaterSafe** plumber who will be able to advise you: <http://www.connectright.org.uk/>

Alternatively you can contact **Severn Trent Water** for more advice on 08456 016 016.

Please report water pollution to the Environment Agency's incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.