



If the rain that falls on your place is going into the sewer, it's a waste of precious, pure, clean water!

It means that the rain water is mixed with dirty water (from your toilet, kitchen sink and washing machine) and it's wasted - going to the sewerage treatment plant.

During storms, up to 35 times more water enters our sewers. This places extra pressure on our mains and pumps, adding large costs to our maintenance bills. Sometimes, in heavy rain and flood situations, our pumps can't cope with the volumes - and then we have sewage overflows. Yuck!

Although it's illegal to connect stormwater to the sewer system, for a number of reasons, it can happen, often accidentally. We want to work with you to help you make sure your connection is legal and safe for the environment.

SAVE YOUR RAIN
Stamp out sewer inflow



It's simple to fix

You can check your place to make sure your rain water goes to the storm water system and not your sewer pipes.

Visit midcoast.nsw.gov.au/sewerinfo for more information and checklists to ensure your place is stamping out sewer inflow!

If you like, you can also build a 'rain garden' at your place - these use special plants to take the run-off of rain water from hard surfaces, like your driveway, and filter the impurities before the water ends up in our waterways.

What we do about sewer inflow

We undertake regular and ongoing inspections of the sewerage system to identify where rain water is entering the sewer. Some of our methods include:

closed circuit television (CCTV) - a remote controlled camera can undertake detailed and accurate inspection of sewerage pipes to identify defects

smoke testing - we inject a harmless gas (mostly water vapour) into the sewerage system and watch for the points where it exits - identifying improper connections to the sewerage system

dye testing - a non-toxic bright coloured dye is pumped into the sewerage system to confirm existence of defects

visual property inspections - authorised council employees may enter your property and perform an inspection of visible areas of your wastewater system (overflow relief gullies, downpipe connections and manholes).