

1 Keeping stormwater out of your gully

Overflow relief gullies are a direct path into the wastewater system. It is illegal to direct stormwater into the wastewater system as it can overload it.

The problem is most obvious during periods of high rainfall when stormwater inflow can cause surcharging of the system and pollute the environment.

By stopping stormwater from entering your gully you are:

- preventing sewage overflows
- protecting community health
- keeping our waterways clean
- saving costly call-outs

What is an overflow relief gully?

Overflow relief gullies are part of your house plumbing and are installed by your builder to stop sewage from spilling inside your house if pipes get blocked. Instead, sewage is released through the gully into your yard.

The gully is a vertical pipe which rises from the sewer buried near your house. It has a loose-fitting grate which stops things such as sticks and leaves from getting in.

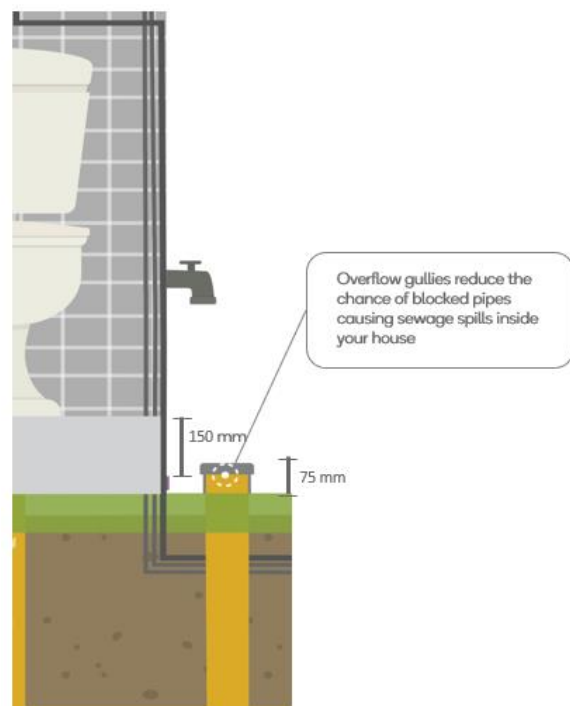
A gully is not a drain. Gullies should never be used for the disposal of stormwater.

Damaged and low-lying gullies

If the gully opening is damaged or too close to the ground, nearby stormwater will flow into the sewer through the gully.

Low-lying gullies usually occur when the surrounding ground level is raised during landscaping or construction of footpaths. Gullies can also be damaged during these activities.

Damaged or low-lying gullies should be fixed by your licensed plumber. If the gully is too low, the plumber will probably raise the level of the gully opening to stop



stormwater from draining into it and may install a concrete surround to protect it. Damaged gullies must be repaired or replaced.

Gully requirements

The Plumbing Code requires that a gully opening be at least 75mm above the surrounding ground level to stop stormwater from entering the wastewater system. The top of the gully should also be at least 150mm below the lowest fixture within the building, e.g., floor waste; otherwise the gully may not provide enough protection against wastewater spills inside the building.

These are only basic requirements for an overflow gully. For other requirements, contact a licensed plumber.

