

WWDS-DEV 063P

Planning liaison

Guidance notes and policy

Rainwater policy for all residential and commercial developments

Did you know...

That the rainfall falling on an average-size roof during a one-hour storm and flowing away through the guttering downpipe, is equivalent to the amount of foul sewage produced by a new development of 100 houses over the same period?

Wessex Water position statement

Any rainwater discharge to a foul or combined sewer system can trigger an increase in overflow spills, exacerbate sewer flooding, cause pollution, and take up valuable capacity for future development.

Rainwater discharge to any sewers carrying sewage, either directly or indirectly, is contrary to the principles of good rainwater management as stated by the Government in its Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan.

Wessex Water will seek to uphold these principles for all new developments. Any development site that has achieved planning permission based on a rainwater drainage strategy that manages rainwater at source or conveys it to a local watercourse should be built out on that basis

Should you feel that you are unable to meet your original planning conditions with regards to your rainwater drainage strategy, then this should be raised with your local planning authority.

If your proposals are exempt from the planning process and you cannot satisfy the above conditions, you must contact the Wessex Water Planning team to discuss as detailed below.

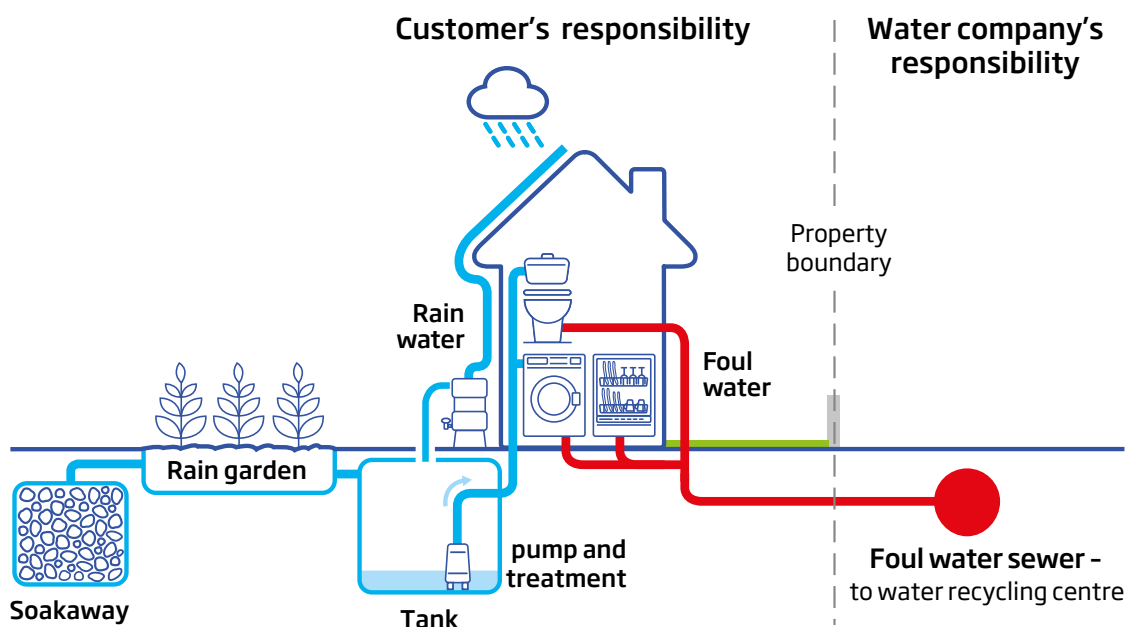
Who does this policy apply to?

- Homeowners who wish to connect rainwater runoff from new, existing, or altered premises into a Wessex Water sewer.
- All housing and commercial developers, for developments of any size.

What is the purpose of this policy?

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate sustainable growth within the catchment without causing detriment to existing customers or the environment.

You have the right to appeal a refusal under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act, 1991 by referral to Ofwat; details of how to appeal can be found on their website, [here](#).



Example of good rainwater management

Contact us

Should you wish to discuss your development drainage strategy then please contact us via planning.liaison@wessexwater.co.uk