

# Help to reduce stormwater entering our sewerage system

## Information Sheet-Pollution Control



### What?

The Rotorua District Council is aiming to minimise the amount of rain water (stormwater) entering the sewerage system.

### Why?

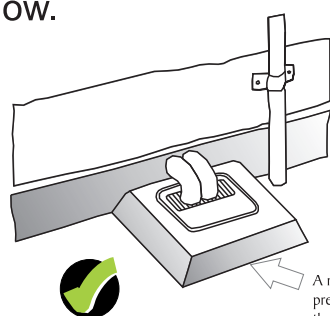
Too much rainwater is entering the sewerage system. Stormwater that enters the sewerage system overloads the treatment plant. This can cause sewerage to overflow onto roads or residential properties through manholes or gully traps. It also increases operating costs at sewerage pump stations and the treatment plant. Upgrading the pipes and treatment plant will be expensive for the ratepayers.

### How is this problem occurring?

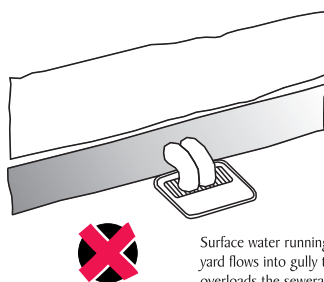
Rainwater is entering the sewerage system via roof downpipes and driveway run-off. A gully trap is the most common point where stormwater enters the sewerage system. They are usually located outside bathrooms, kitchens or laundries. Their purpose is to collect wastewater from these utilities and discharge it into the sewerage system. Rainwater from roofs and yard run-off should NOT be entering your gully trap.

### How can it be fixed?

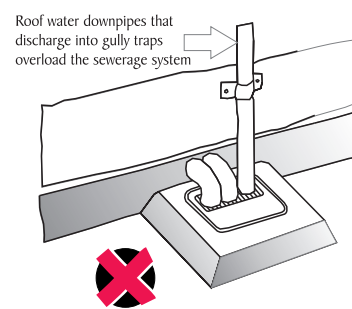
The top of any gully trap or the top surface of a raised lip should be at least 50mm above the ground on paved areas and at least 100mm above the earth in unpaved areas. The property owner is responsible for the repair of any faulty connections to the sewerage system with low gully traps being the most common fault. Please contact a Plumber or Drainlayer to repair any faults such as the ones illustrated below.



A raised lip around a gully trap prevent stormwater runoff from the yard entering the sewerage system



Surface water running off the yard flows into gully traps and overloads the sewerage system



Roof water downpipes that discharge into gully traps overload the sewerage system

**For more info or advice, please contact:  
Rotorua District Council on 07 348 4199  
or go to [www.rdc.govt.nz](http://www.rdc.govt.nz) and type in words "gully trap"**