

DRAINS

Guidance for householders
about drainage issues.

Practical information for householders

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to investigate complaints about unsatisfactory drains where public health is affected and also have powers to require the users of drains to remedy the problem.

It is a common misconception that Severn Trent Water or Gedling Borough Council are responsible for drains.

Severn Trent Water is only responsible for public sewers. These are normally located in the middle of the road, or serve houses built prior to October 1937. Sewers serving houses built after this time are the responsibility of those who use them. Similarly, a single drain will always be the responsibility of the house it serves.

When trying to establish if you have responsibility for a drain a simple rule applies **“you and any other person whose waste flows through the drain will have a responsibility for the drain until it meets the public sewer regardless of the length of the drain and whose land it may run through”** Please see diagram opposite for more details.

Terminology

Drain - carries waste and/or surface water directly from one house into a public or private sewer.

Sewer - carries waste water and or surface water from two or more houses.

Private Sewer – carries waste and or surface water from two or more houses which are built post 1st October 1937, and will eventually join with a public sewer.

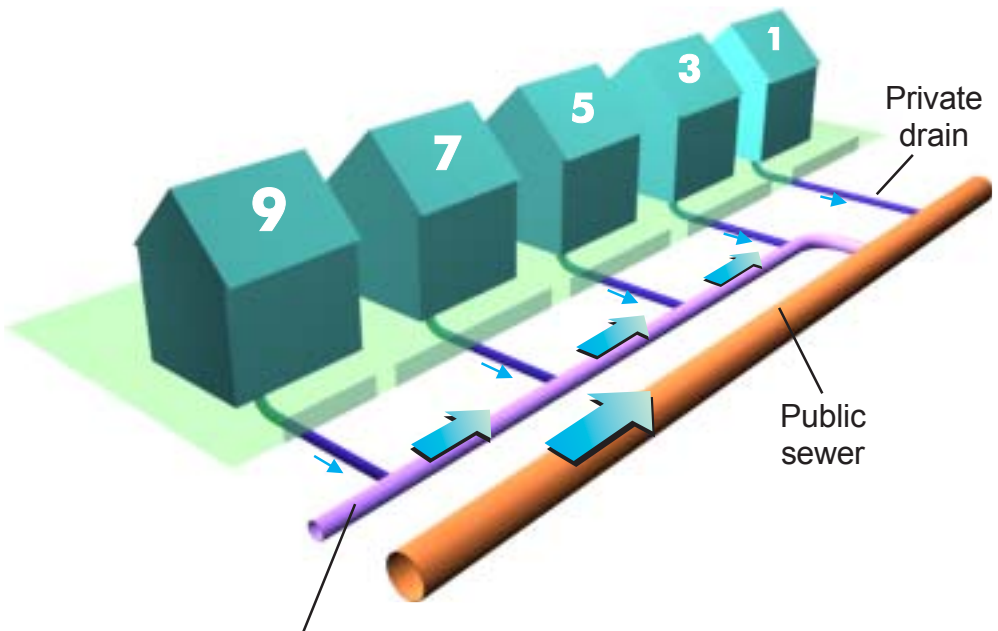
Public Sewer – usually carries waste from two or more properties built pre 1st October 1937 or sewers adopted by Severn Trent Water, usually under the highway.

This is an example of how the system works.

House No1 has a drain and is solely responsible for the drain until it meets with the public sewer.

House No's 3 to 9 all have a drain and individual responsibility of it until it meets the sewer. (This may be public or private dependant on the age of the property - see terminology) No's 3 to 9 are all jointly responsible for the private sewer until it meets the public sewer in the road.

Severn Trent Water take responsibility at the public sewer.



Private (due to age of property, see terminology)

Hints to avoid drainage problems:

- Avoid putting, fats, oils, nappies or any other materials that are likely to solidify in the drains.**
- Keep inspection chambers accessible, carry out maintenance and if you are carrying out building work make allowances for drains don't put building waste in them or build over them.**
- Trees and shrubs look nice but roots can penetrate drains and cause problems.**

Got a problem?

If you know your problem is with a **Public Sewer** you can ring **Severn Trent Water** on **0800 783 4444**

If you require your **drain or private sewer** unblocking, Gedling Borough Council provide an unblocking service, on **0115 901 3613**. This is a chargeable service.

Gedling Borough Council also provide cesspool and septic tank emptying service for further information please Tel 0115 9013613

For queries, difficulties and drainage investigation, or any other issues contact the Council's Environmental Protection Service on **0115 901 3836**.

We will normally respond within 2 working days.

**For larger print, tape or other
language versions please telephone
0115 901 3936**

