



## Domestic Dual Drainage Systems A Householder Guide

Should you require further information  
please contact the Pollution Team at: -

Environment & Safety Directorate,  
Century House, 100 Menzies Road,  
St Leonards-on-Sea, TN38 9BB  
. 01424 783228

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Many thousands of houses in Hastings and St Leonard's -On-Sea are served by separate foul drains (taking effluent discharged from sanitary appliances such as sinks, wash hand basins, baths, showers or toilets) and separate surface water drains (taking rainwater from gutters, rainwater down pipes, driveway and roadway gulleys.) These drain systems will usually discharge into "separate" foul public sewers and storm public sewers either directly or via private sewerage.

Often the age of house and its locality in the Borough will indicate whether you have "separate" drainage or "combined" drainage (i.e. a single drain system taking both foul and surface water discharge.) For example pre 1919 terraced houses often have "combined" drainage, whereas inter-war and post-war estate houses have separate systems.

However it may not be readily apparent which systems have been provided for your particular house. Two separate manholes side by side within the curtilage of your property will most likely indicate separate drainage. But sometimes manholes get covered over by lawns, flowerbeds, driveways, and sheds. Sometimes the manholes of private sewers are on neighboring properties to which you do not have immediate access. Lastly in Hastings

and St Leonards-On-Sea we often have "dual manholes" i.e. the separate storm water drains or sewers are accessed from a single manhole/inspection chamber. In these cases it is customary to find the foul effluent running along the open channel in the manhole and the storm water in its parallel separate pipe work accessible through a rodding eye in the benching alongside the open channel.

The separate drains and separate private sewers discharge to public sewers. In Hastings the foul effluent now goes to the new Waste Water Treatment Works at Pebsham and then to the long sea outfall at Bulverhythe. By contrast, the storm public sewers frequently outfall into the open ditches, ponds watercourses and streams which comprise our public amenity open spaces and wooded areas.

Therefore householders should take time and trouble to ensure that all waste water discharges especially washing machines and dishwasher wastes are connected into the foul drains and not into storm drains in order to maintain streams and watercourses in Hastings and St Leonards in a healthy pollution free state. Also regular checks should be made of "dual manholes" to ensure

that the foul channel is unobstructed and that storm drain rodding eye caps are properly secure so effectively isolating the systems and avoid gross pollution of the streams and watercourses.

The Environmental Protection Team of Hastings Borough Council has considerable experience with domestic drainage problems throughout the Town. They also have access to archives of house plans and drainage records. They will be able to advise you further on any queries you may have about your drainage arrangements and where it is appropriate will undertake house checks on request to give more detailed free advice to occupants.