Rain showers, particularly when heavy and continuous, result in large volumes of stormwater.
If gutters or downpipes are directed or connected to the wrong outside drains, stormwater gets into the sewer system. Gutters or downpipes should thus allow stormwater to drain naturally.
Rainwater and the sewer system

What to do and What not to do Comparison

1. Domestic waste water should be disposed of in outside drains.

2. 3. 4.

5. 6. 7.

8. WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS

9.
Stormwater in the sewer system results in overflows at manholes, outside drains and, in severe cases, at shower outlets inside the property. This calls for stormwater to be directed correctly and drained into stormwater drains and the stormwater system.
Overflowing sewage can enter the stormwater drain and the stormwater system. If the stormwater and sewer systems are not kept separate, sewage overflowing into the stormwater system will pollute rivers.
Paving sloped towards private drains will result in stormwater entering into the private sewer drainage system of the property. The sewer system is designed to provide for the drainage of sewage and domestic waste water only.
Rainwater and the sewer system

What to do and What not to do Comparison

1. Collect rainwater for reuse.
2. Use rainwater for irrigation.
3. Install a roof drain to divert excess rainwater.
4. Avoid pouring oil or chemicals into the sewer.
5. Do not allow sewage to overflow onto your property.
6. Do not pour water into the sewer.
7. Do not flush paper products down the toilet.
8. Use waste water treatment works effectively.

Sewage overflows onto your property is a health hazard and pollutes our rivers. If the sewer system drains just domestic waste water, the waste water treatment works can treat the waste water effectively.
Rainwater and the sewer system

What to do and What not to do Comparison

Roots of trees and shrubs near sewer pipes result in pipe breaks, blockages and sewage overflows. Trees and shrubs must therefore be planted away from sewer pipes.
Stormwater in the sewer system causes problems at the waste water treatment works. If stormwater is naturally drained via the stormwater system, and domestic waste water is properly treated by the waste water treatment works, our rivers are not polluted and a health hazard is avoided.