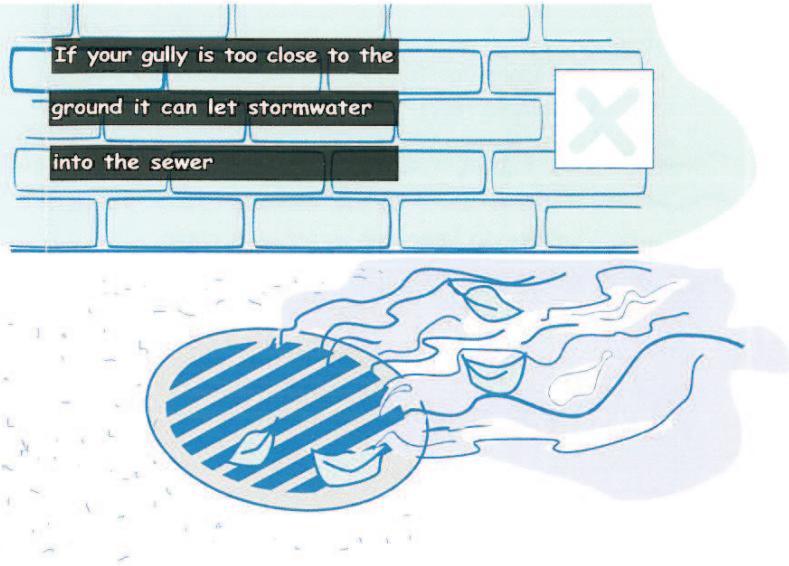
WHAT IS AN OVERFLOW GULLY?

Overflow gullies stop sewage from spilling inside your house if pipes get blocked. Instead, sewage is released through the gully into your yard.

The gully is a vertical pipe which rises from a sewer buried near your house. It has a loose-fitting grate which stops things such as sticks and leaves from getting in.

A gully is not a drain. Gullies should not be used for the disposal of stormwater.

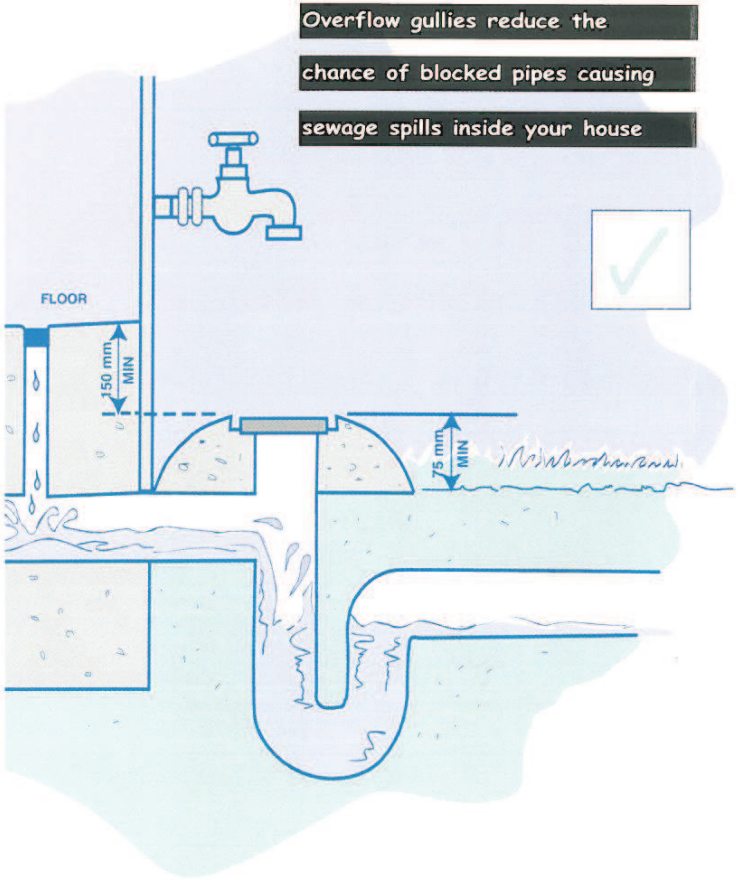


If your gully is too close to the ground it can let stormwater into the sewer

GULLY REQUIREMENTS

A gully opening should be at at least 75mm above the ground to stop stormwater from entering the sewerage system. The top of the gully should also be no less than 150mm below the lowest fixture within the building, e.g., floor waste, otherwise the gully may not provide enough protection against sewerage spills inside the building.

These are only basic requirements for an overflow gully. For other requirements, contact a licensed plumber.



Overflow gullies reduce the chance of blocked pipes causing sewage spills inside your house

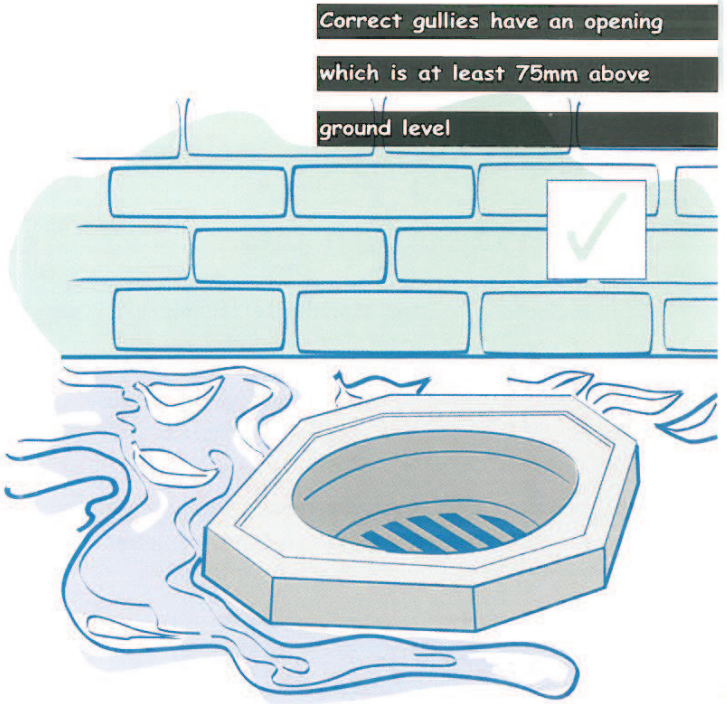
DAMAGED AND LOW-LYING GULLIES

If the gully opening is damaged or too close to the ground, nearby stormwater will flow into the sewer through the gully.

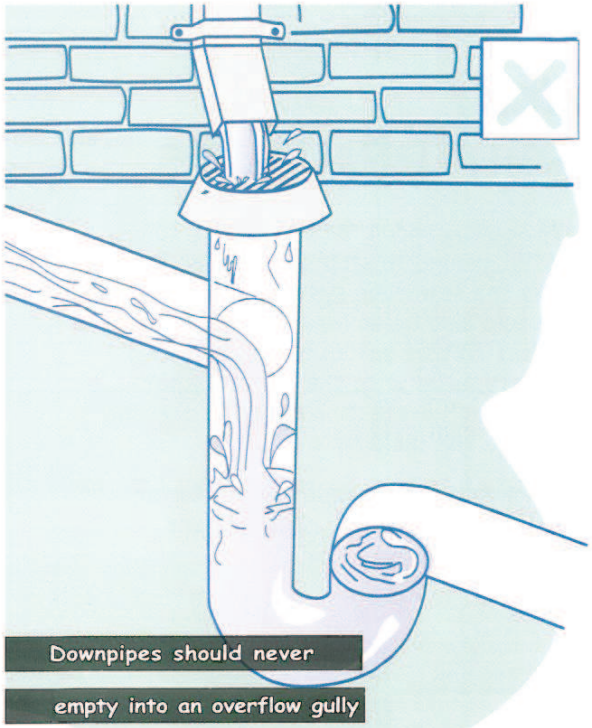
Stormwater going into one gully mightn't seem like much of a problem. But every time it rains, stormwater from many gullies builds up to place a big strain on the sewerage system.

Low-lying gullies usually occur when the surrounding ground level is raised during landscaping or construction of footpaths. Gullies can also be damaged during these activities

Damaged or low-lying gullies should be fixed by a licensed plumber. If the gully is too low, the plumber will probably raise the level of the gully opening to stop stormwater from draining into it. Damaged gullies must be repaired or replaced.



Correct gullies have an opening which is at least 75mm above ground level



GULLIES AND STORMWATER

It is important to stop stormwater from entering gullies. Stormwater can overload the sewerage system, causing it to spill into our waterways and pollute the environment. It also creates difficulties for people who live further along the system where overflows occur.

The problem is most obvious during periods of high rainfall when polluted stormwater causes surcharging of manholes and gets into our waterways.

It costs Council and the community many thousands of dollars to fight the problems caused by stormwater entering the sewerage system.

By stopping stormwater from entering your gully you are:

- reducing sewage overflows,
- protecting community health,
- helping to keep our waterways clean,
- saving the community money.

For more information, contact —

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DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL

KEEPING STORMWATER OUT OF YOUR GULLY