

Fact Sheet

Overflow relief gullies



An overflow relief gully (ORG) is a plumbing fitting located outside your home that is designed to release wastewater in the case of a pipe blockage or network overload. If a pipe blockage or overload occurs, the ORG grate should pop off to release the excess pressure and direct wastewater so it does not enter your home. Houses with a number of bathrooms may have more than one ORG.

Plumbing regulations apply to the installation of ORGs (AS/NZ 3500.2:2021). Plumbing regulations require ORGs to be installed a minimum of 150 mm below the lowest internal drain fixture (usually a floor waste or shower drain) to prevent internal wastewater surcharges, and 75 mm above the surrounding finished ground level - except where the gully riser is located in a path or a paved area, (in this case, it must be finished at a level that prevents rainwater inflow into the wastewater system during rain events).

Correct installation:



Incorrect installation:



A roofwater downpipe draining to an ORG allowing rainwater into the wastewater network



ORG not raised above surrounding ground allowing surface rainwater into the wastewater network



Why is it important to have the correct overflow relief gully installation and maintenance?

Incorrectly installed and maintained overflow relief gullies may cause wastewater to overflow inside your house. They can also allow excess rainwater to enter the wastewater system, which can result in overflows of wastewater into yards, streets and creeks. These wastewater overflows can result in public health and environmental risks.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining overflow relief gullies. You must take reasonable steps to ensure overflow relief gullies and all other sanitary plumbing and drainage on your property is kept in good condition and operates correctly (as per the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*).

A licensed plumber should be contacted if you do not have an ORG or require an alteration to an older fitting. All costs are the responsibility of the property owner.

What you can do to help reduce stormwater getting into the wastewater network

✓DO:

- Contract a licensed plumber to fix any defective household drains connected to the wastewater network and disconnect illegal roofwater connections on your property.
- Ensure your property's ORG is installed correctly.
- Slope the area surrounding your ORG downwards to prevent stormwater from entering your ORG, and directing wastewater flow away from your house in the event of an overflow.
- Ensure your property's roofwater downpipes drain water to a legal point of discharge (e.g. roadside kerb; approved installed roofwater discharge point or, on-site rubble pit).
- Ensure any broken water or drainage pipes on your property are repaired immediately.
- Ensure your home's internal drainage is in good condition.

✓DON'T:

- Cover or obstruct wastewater maintenance holes or ORGs.
- Plant trees over or around wastewater lines.
- Connect roofwater downpipes to your property's ORG or house drainage pipes.

Related Information

- Wastewater overflows factsheet
- Information on Council's webpage: www.logan.qld.gov.au (search for Wastewater Overflows and Overflow Relief Gullies Fact Sheets)

For More Information:

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Visit www.logan.qld.gov.au

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