



Most residential / commercial properties are connected to Council's sewer system via a single junction into each lot. The connections have identified points for access, inspection, repairs and surcharge gully (overflow). The following information and advice is provided to assist owners to evaluate sewer problems and reduce surface water inflow and groundwater infiltration into Council's Sewer.

**INTERNAL HOUSE DRAINAGE**

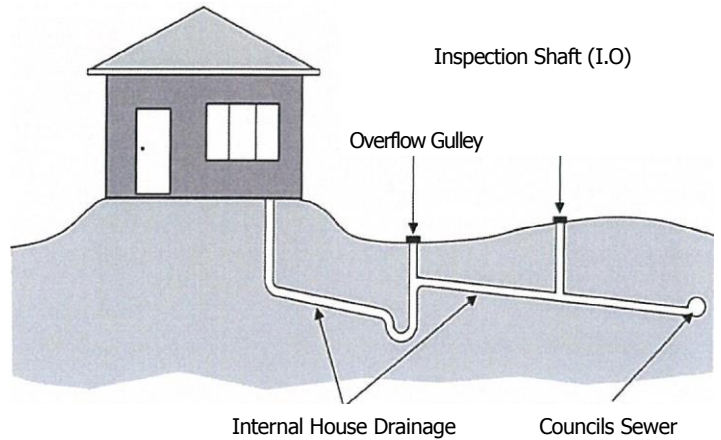
This includes all internal sewer drains throughout the premises that gravitate down to the inspection shaft. **Owners are responsible for repair and maintenance of internal house drains.**

**OVERFLOW GULLY**

These are usually external points with a loose grated lid to allow sewage to surcharge (overflow) if a blockage or wet weather occurs. Installation should be a minimum of 75mm above ground level and 150mm below floor level. It is important that these points are not buried or covered to allow surcharge to occur during these events and prevent surcharge within your house. **Do not drain storm water into the gully at any time**

**INSPECTION SHAFTS (I.O)**

Inspection shafts, I.O, are important in the sewer line. They are normally identified by a flat PVC or CAST IRON round disk (refer to photos below) approximately 180mm in diameter normally with a concrete surround to protect it from damage. The I.O cap may be buried; they are located on your property and usually near a boundary (1m inside the boundary) that is adjacent to Council's Sewer Main. This is usually either at the front or the rear of your property. Ensure your IO cap is exposed at all times



**RESPONSIBILITIES**

All residents / proprietors should know the location of the inspection shafts, I.O, on the property; replacement and maintenance remain the responsibility of the owner or proprietor.

In the case of a Sewer Blockage (e.g. if your toilet, sink, shower or washing machine water doesn't drain away) carefully remove the PVC or CAST IRON cover located on your property. If the inspection shaft, I.O is empty at this point, the blockage must be in the house drainage. **It is the responsibility of the property owner to have the blockage cleared by a Licensed Plumber & Drainer at the owners cost.**

If however the line is blocked, holding/overflowing water at the inspection shaft, I.O, it is likely to be the responsibility of Council to clear the blockage. In this case, Call Council on **0245604444** during business hours for customer service and after hours follow the message prompts to contact Councils on-call staff where you will be asked a few questions to ascertain if the block is in Council's sewer for the crew to respond.

DO	DON'T
<p><b>Internal House Drains</b></p> <p>Keep floor waste sumps and U-trap topped up with water to prevent smell.</p> <p><b>Overflow Gully</b></p> <p>Keep gully topped with water. Ensure gully is free of surcharge. Ensure surcharge point is minimum 75mm above ground level. Ensure it is more than 150mm below floor level.</p> <p><b>Inspection Shaft (I.O)</b></p> <p>Locate and keep shaft clear. (Council cleaning point) Always replace cover immediately after use. Have any damage to shaft cover repaired immediately. Notify Council if shaft is blocked or overflowing</p>	<p><b>Internal House Drains</b></p> <p>Don't put the following objects into the sewer – Toys, Nappies, Sanitary products, Wipes, Ear buds, Broken glass, Kitty Litter, Aquarium Sand etc. Flammable Material or Strong Chemicals. <b>Foreign Materials and Substances will cause damage</b></p> <p><b>Overflow Gully</b></p> <p>Don't place objects over the grate lid. Don't cover, fill or build over grate.</p> <p><b>Inspection Shaft (I.O)</b></p> <p>Don't allow foreign objects to be placed into shaft. Don't build structures over inspection shaft or bury under driveways or in gardens. Don't direct storm-water onto inspection shaft. Don't damage or leave cover unsealed. Don't plant large shrubs or trees adjacent to the shaft.</p>

**STORM WATER**

Storm-water includes water collected from roofs, gutters, downpipes, driveways, lawns and any surface water resulting from rainfall. The discharge of storm-water into Council's Sewerage System is illegal. Council does have methods for detection of illegal connections and discharges. Periodic surveys are completed by Hawkesbury City Council to identify illegal discharges to sewer. Household owners are required to rectify defects and any failure to comply may lead to a penalty of up to \$2200 as per section 638 of the Local Government Act and cost recovery to undertake defect repairs.