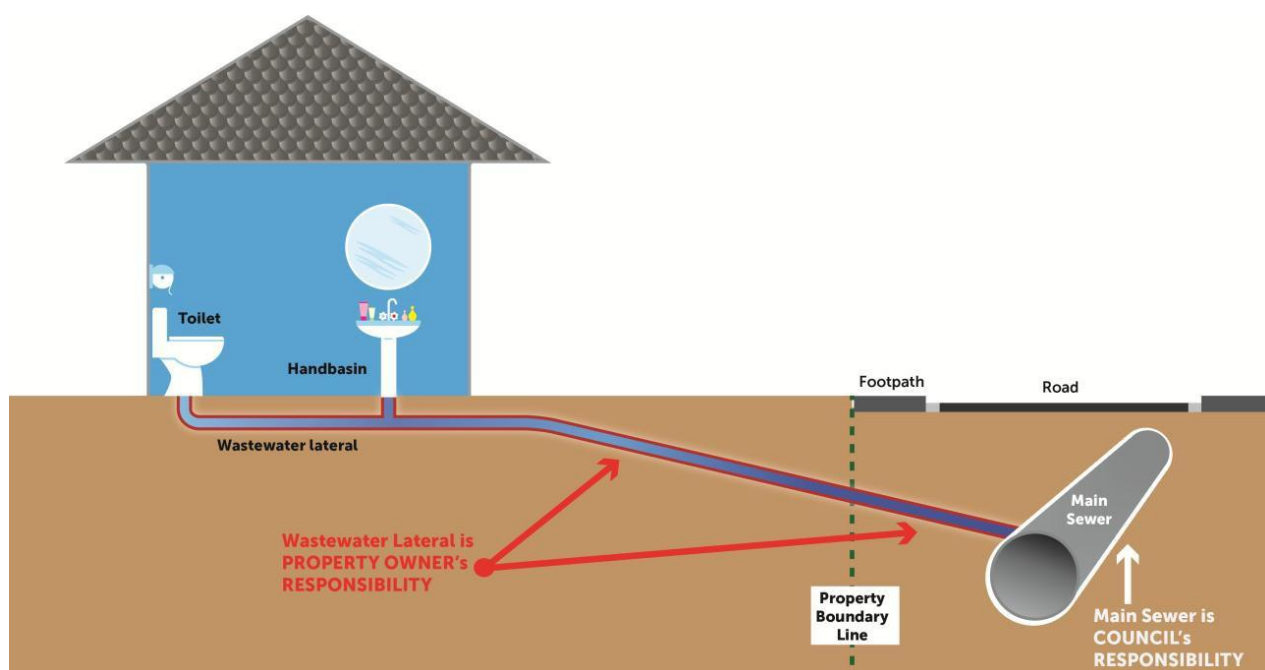


Wastewater drainage – information sheet

Wastewater, or foul sewage, is collected from homes and businesses into a network of wastewater pipes for delivery to wastewater treatment plants. While many of these pipes (or “drains”) are publicly owned, some are privately owned. Whether any particular drain is public or private is not always clear-cut, and an assessment of the history of the drain and the intention of its construction and use may be required.

What is a public drain?

A public drain used for public drainage is the responsibility of the DCC. Public drains may have been constructed by the DCC, or they may have been privately constructed and the DCC has since declared the drain public, or has otherwise taken over control and maintenance of it. The DCC website maps (www.dunedin.govt.nz/water-services-map) show all public drains, although some private drains are shown and identified as such.



What is a private drain?

A private drain is the responsibility of the person(s) whose land it services. Common types of private drains are wastewater laterals. These pipes carry wastewater from a building to public wastewater drains, which often lie under the street. Laterals are privately installed when buildings are constructed and are an extension of that property even when located in public land, such as road reserve. Where a lateral serves only one private property and is located in road reserve and the DCC has assumed no control over it, the lateral will be a private drain.

What are my responsibilities as a private drain owner?

You must maintain your lateral to ensure wastewater is effectively delivered to the public wastewater drain. This can involve periodic cleaning and repair. If your drain spills wastewater and causes a nuisance, the DCC may clean it up in urgency and recover costs from you as provided for under the Health Act 1956.

Where the lateral is located within land owned by another party, that landowners' permission to enter and disturb the land must be obtained. For any works within the road corridor, a “corridor access request” (CAR) must be lodged with the road controlling authority. This is NZTA for State Highways and DCC for local roads. CARs can be lodged through www.submitica.com for both authorities.

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