

Applying for a sewer connection – Guidance Notes

Introduction

Under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991, the owner of any domestic property is entitled to have foul and surface water from their property connected to the public sewerage system.

Under Section 107 of the Water Industry Act 1991, the sewerage undertaker (South West Water) has the right to make the connection themselves and charge the applicant. Subject to prior approval, you or your appointed contractor will be allowed to make the sewer connection.

South West Water reserves the right to make a connection to the public sewer and the cost of the materials, plant and labour used will be recoverable from the applicant.

South West Water requires that any new connections to the public sewer network be made to our high standards such that the integrity of the existing network is not compromised by the type of connection or the construction method. Foul water from your property may only be connected to an existing foul or combined sewer.

South West Water supports the Planning Policy Guidance for Flood Risk & Coastal Change statement that developments should aim to discharge surface runoff as high up the hierarchy of drainage options as reasonably practicable:

1. Discharge into the ground (infiltration); or where not reasonably practicable,
 - *Provide written evidence as to why Infiltration devices, including Soakaways, Swales, Infiltration Basins and Filter Drains do not meet the design standards as specified in either H3 Building Regulation standards for areas less than 100m². Soakaways serving larger areas must meet the design standard specified in BS EN 752-4 (para 3.36) or BRE Digest 365 Soakaway Design.*
2. Discharge to a surface waterbody; or where not reasonably practicable,
 - *Provide written evidence for refusal of discharge consent from owner of water body (Environment Agency, Local Authority, Riparian Owner etc)*
3. Discharge to a surface water sewer, highway drain, or another drainage system; or where not reasonably practicable,
 - *Provide written evidence for refusal of discharge to drainage system (Highway Authority, Environment Agency, Local Authority, Private ownership)*
4. Discharge to a combined sewer.
 - *South West Water will carry out a hydraulic capacity review of the combined sewerage network before permission will be granted to discharge to the combined sewer.*

SWW will require evidence that the Runoff Destination Hierarchy has been followed and evidence provided to demonstrate why the other preferred disposal routes are not acceptable.

Before applying to South West Water for permission to make a connection to the public sewer you should obtain approval for your drainage layout from a Building Control body and if required you should also obtain Local Authority planning approval.

The Process

After reading this guide, you should complete the form '**Application to communicate with a public sewer**' and return this, with all requested supporting documents.

This will be used by us to complete the technical vetting of your submission and to give approval to the type of connection.

Once approval has been granted, your proposed contractor will need to complete a '**Permission to carry out works on a public sewer**' form. This will be used to verify the suitability of the proposed contractor and to make sure that work on the public sewerage system is carried out in a safe manner.

You should ensure that your application accurately describes your proposal and that your contractor seeks authorisation from South West Water to carry out the works.

We will inspect the work on the public sewer at an agreed time to make sure that this is carried out satisfactorily.

There is a charge payable to South West Water for the service. Please refer to the Developer Services charges booklet for further information.

Please contact us if you wish to discuss any aspect of your application.

Infrastructure Charges

Infrastructure charges are applicable to anyone building or developing a property. They are in addition to our charges for water main, sewer requisitions and connections, and cover the cost of extra demand on our existing network.

Standard water infrastructure charges are payable on all new water connections made for domestic purpose.

Standard sewerage infrastructure charges are payable on all new domestic sewerage connections. Infrastructure charges do not apply to water and sewerage services for non-domestic purposes.

Further information is available on request

Responsibilities

YOU are responsible for:

- Obtaining Building Regulation approval for your proposed drainage system.
- Obtaining permission from any landowner affected by your proposed work.
- Providing all the information we require to approve the connection.
- Ensuring we receive a completed **'Application to communicate with a public sewer'** form.
- Ensuring your contractor completes and submits a 'Request for permission to carry out works on a public sewer' and receives approval before starting the work.
- Paying contractors' charges for the cost of constructing the approved sewer connection and any associated drainage system.
- Paying infrastructure charges if applicable, for each premise connected to water and/or sewerage services for the first time.
- Paying South West Water charges for each application.

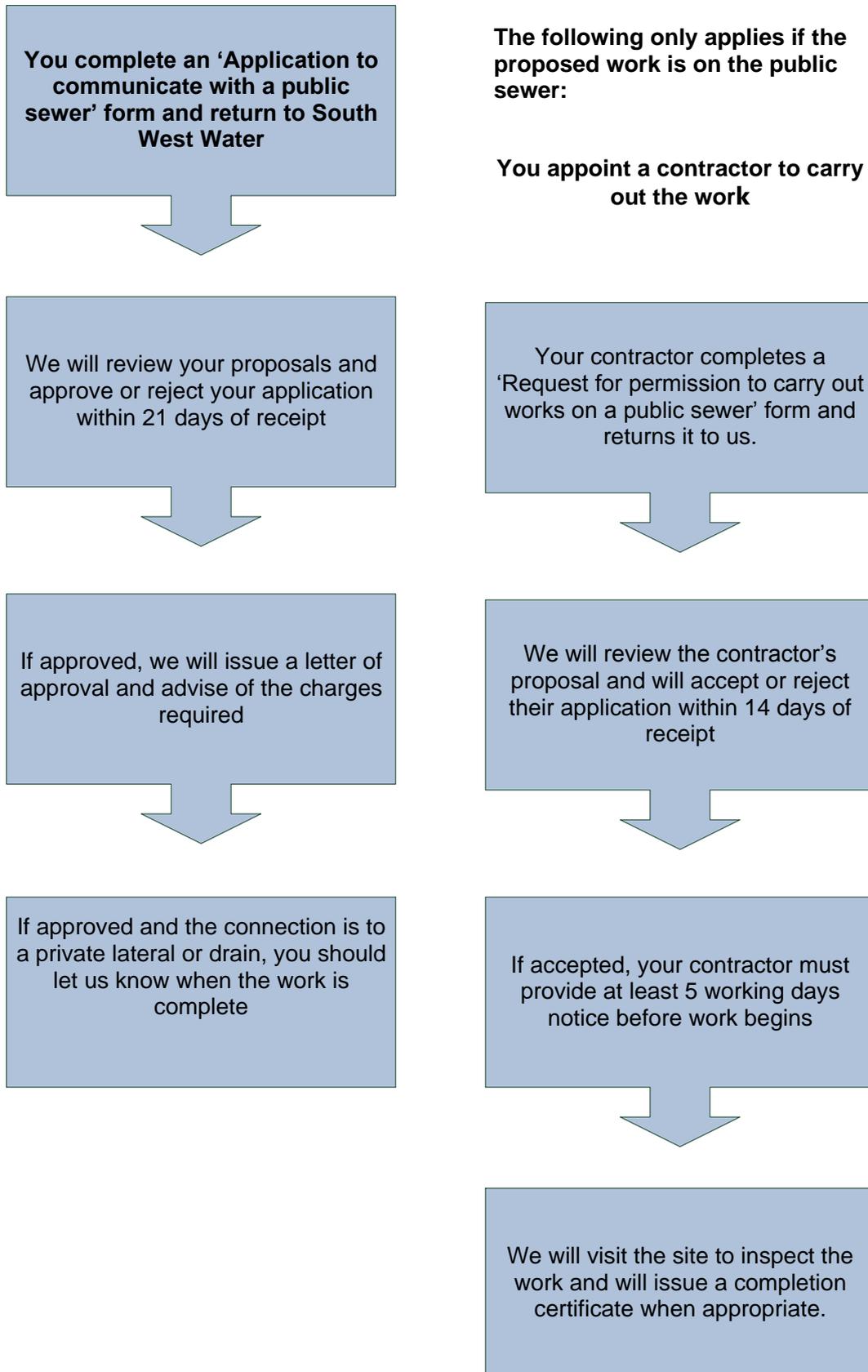
YOUR CONTRACTOR is responsible for:

- Obtaining prior approval from South West Water to carry out work on the public sewer. Only contractors able to satisfy the requirements of South West Water will be permitted to make the connection to the public wastewater network.
- Completing a **'Request for permission to carry out works on a public sewer'** form and confirming approval before commencing work on site.
- Following approval give five working days notice of the date and time for inspection of the work to the public sewer.
- Confirming if the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 apply to this work.
- Complying specifically with the Water Industry Act 1991, the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991 and the Confined Spaces Regulations 1997.
- Carrying out the sewer connection in accordance with the agreed **'Request for permission to carry out works on a public sewer'**.

WE are responsible for:

- Providing assistance with your application
- Checking and approving your connection proposals
- Advising your contractor of any known unusual hazards at the location of the proposed sewer connection over and above the normal hygiene hazards when working with sewage.
- Checking that the contractor has proposed a safe system of work on the public sewerage system.
- Undertaking the inspection of the mode of connection on site and issuing completion certificate.
- Invoicing you for our charges.

The Process



Technical Notes

a) Approval

Permission must be obtained from South West Water for any new direct or indirect connection to the public sewer. In addition, approval of the method to be used in making any direct connection will be required.

Under no circumstances should the applicant or his contractor break into the public sewer without the written approval of South West Water.

b) Connection types

Direct connections may be made at a manhole (new or existing) or by the insertion of a preformed oblique junction into the sewer pipe. The use of saddle connections will only be permitted where the existing sewer is 300mm or greater in diameter, and the new connection must be at least 150mm smaller in diameter than the sewer pipe to which you propose to connect.

The type of connection will generally be in accordance with the existing network, for example a separate or combined system of drainage.

All connections should be made using the correct tools for the job, for example for saddle connections the main sewer is to be core drilled. The contractor is also to take all precautions not to allow any debris to enter the public sewer.

Indirect connections may be made to lateral drains where these have been provided in advance for the premises concerned, or to existing neighbouring drains with additional permission being obtained from the owner of the drain. The inspection of indirect connections will be carried out by Building Control bodies, not by South West Water.

c) Foul and surface water drainage

Only domestic foul sewage will be permitted to be discharged to the public foul sewer. Surface water derived from the premises (and with specific agreement, highways) may be discharged to a public surface water sewer, if one is available and the Surface Water Runoff Destination Hierarchy has been adhered to. Calculations of surface water flow rates will be required.

Flow calculations: Surface water discharge rates are required for the proposed development. The calculation is based on 50mm per hour rainfall (1 in 30 year intensity).

d) Trade effluent

Separate approval must be obtained for the discharge to the public sewer of any trade effluent from a factory, manufacturing or commercial process. We will contact you to discuss the details of the necessary Consent or Agreement.

e) Plans required

Along with your '**Application to communicate with a public sewer**' you should send a **Location Plan** to a scale of 1:2500 showing the position of the site and a **Site Plan** to a scale of 1:500 showing the details of the proposed drains on the property, the area to be drained for surface water and the points of connection with the public sewerage system. The drawings shall include the finished floor levels.

f) Data sheet on sewage

Details are included in this guide. If you require further information to help with a COSHH assessment, please let us know.

g) Safe system of work

Your proposed contractor must complete a '**Request for permission to carry out works on a public sewer**' form, providing details of their proposed safe system of work.

Technical Notes (cont.)

h) Approved contractors

The making of a sewer connection to the public sewerage system will usually be subject to the Confined Spaces Regulations 1997. The contractor should satisfy the following criteria where appropriate:

- Be a HAUC approved contractor - a contractor approved by the Highway Authority to carry out work in the highway.
- Have a satisfactory health and safety policy.
- Be formally trained in working in confined spaces to City and Guilds standard or CABWI Level 2 Award in Working in Medium or High Risk Confined Spaces in the Water Industry (6150-02 or 6150-03).
- Provide adequate insurance (£5 million public liability insurance).
- Have demonstrated competence in the making of sewer connections.

Sections (g) and (h) apply only where work will be carried out on the public sewer.

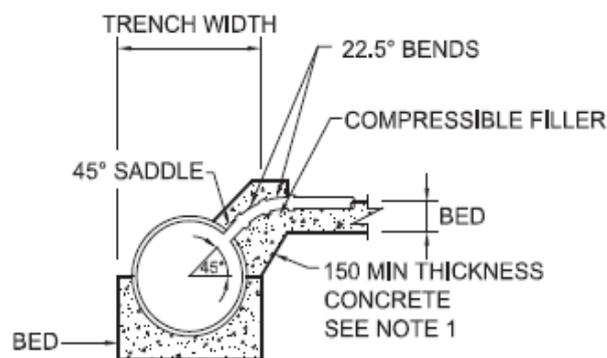
Notifications of work on site

We require at least five working days notice when work on the site is to be carried out in order to arrange for inspections and to issue any permits to work on the public sewer.

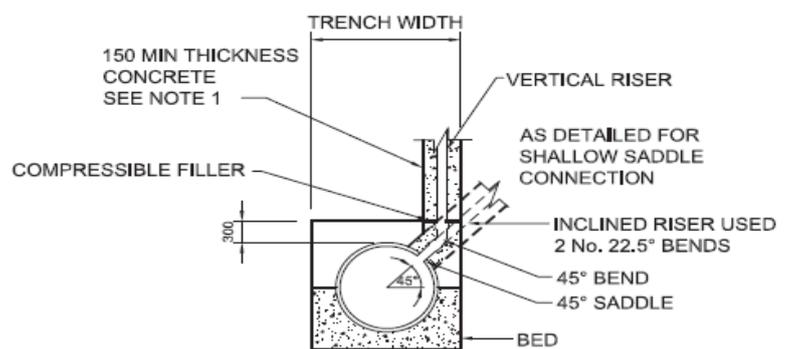
Under no circumstances should the connection be covered over until a South West Water appointed person has inspected the works. If the connection has been covered over or is not ready for inspection at the appointed time, South West Water will be entitled to recover from the applicant any costs incurred in exposing the works and making good any defects if necessary.

Please note that South West Water is responsible for inspecting the connection only. All pipe work leading from the connection will need to be inspected and approved by a relevant Building Control

Standard Connections (cont.)

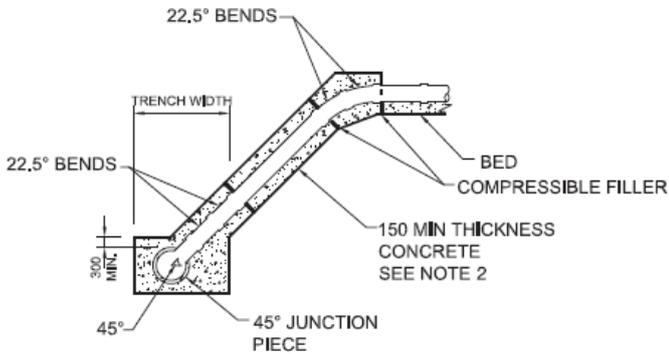


SHALLOW SADDLE CONNECTION



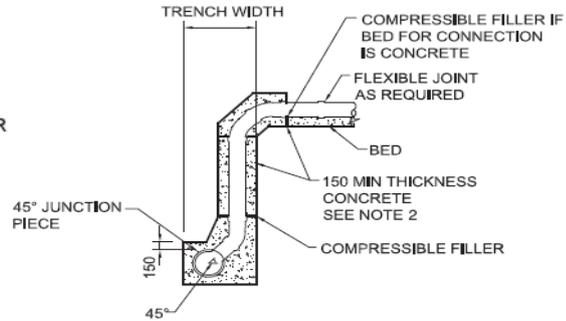
VERTICAL AND INCLINED RISER SADDLE CONNECTION

Standard Connections (cont.)



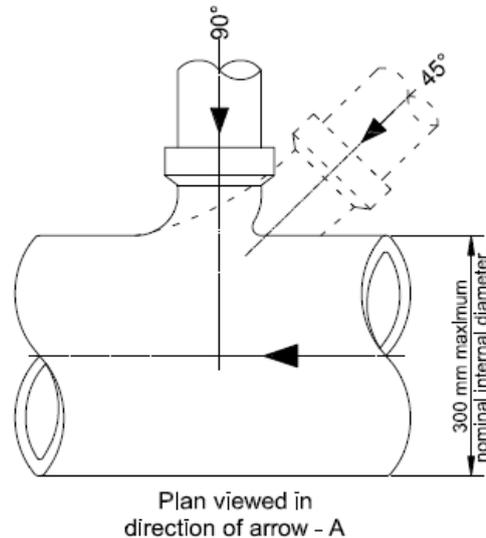
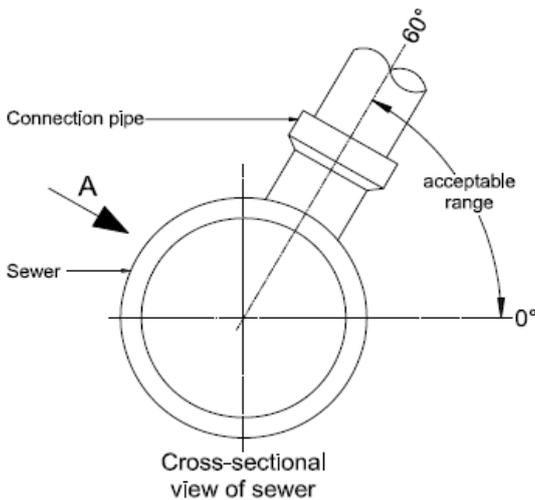
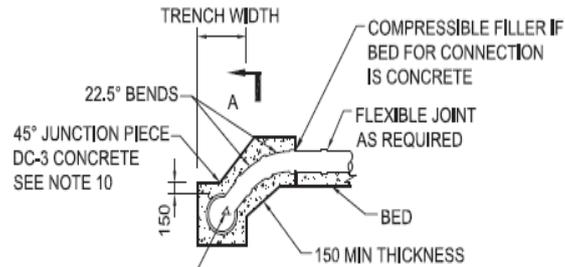
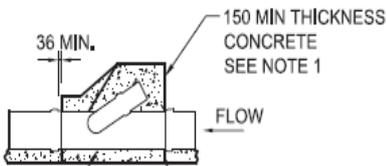
INCLINED RISER JUNCTION CONNECTION

(TO APPLY WHERE AN EXISTING CONNECTION PIPE IS NOT INTERSECTED WITHIN THE TRENCH LIMIT OR THE DIFFERENCE IN INVERT LEVELS IS LESS THAN 3000)



VERTICAL RISER JUNCTION CONNECTION

(TO APPLY WHERE AN EXISTING CONNECTION PIPE IS NOT INTERSECTED WITHIN THE TRENCH LIMIT OR THE DIFFERENCE IN INVERT LEVELS IS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 3000)



Notes:

1. All in situ concrete to be GEN3, C20 or FND3 in sulphate conditions.
2. Where the diameter of the main sewer is less than or equal to 525mm and the diameter of the connection is greater than or equal to 225mm a junction piece must be used.
3. Any connections into existing manholes or inspection chambers are subject to approval by South West Water.

Data sheet on sewerage

Composition

The exact composition of a particular sewage is indefinable and varies between sites and throughout time. Sources of sewage include domestic wastewater, industrial trade effluents, rainfall run-off and infiltration.

About 99% of sewage is water, with the remaining 1% consisting of organic and inorganic chemicals, gases from decomposition of organic wastes, solids and biological constituents of both animal and microbiological nature.

Known hazards of exposure

There is no evidence that sewage workers are particularly prone to infection by the variety of micro-organisms found in sewage.

General hazards

- falling and slipping
- drowning
- asphyxiation (seek information on hydrogen and methane gases)

Specific hazards

- infection from pathogens through ingestion or open wounds
- chemical toxicity from trade effluents
- explosions from methane gas or other vapours
- Leptospirosis (Weil's disease)
- Hepatitis A

Health and safety - access to the public sewer

Due to the health and safety implications of working within the public sewer it is essential to obtain approval from South West Water prior to the start of any work.

Your contractor must complete a '**Request for permission to carry out works to a public sewer**' form. This is used to assess the contractor, the method of work and the risk assessment.

All operatives working in confined space entry must be suitably trained to EU skills standards; City and Guilds standards or CABWI Level 2 Award in Working in Medium or High Risk Confined Spaces in the Water Industry (6150-02 or 6150-03).

Further information

You are recommended to review the Health and Safety Executive website for further guidance before undertaking work on a sewerage system.

Contact us

For more information or assistance, please contact our Services Helpline:

Services Helpline: 0344 346 2020*
8am - 6pm Monday to Friday. Emergencies only at any other time.

Minicom users: 0800 169 9965
Email: DeveloperServicesAssetProtection@southwestwater.co.uk

*03 numbers are charged at standard rates and will be included in any free minutes in a mobile or landline phone contract.