

# Overflow Relief Gullies

## What is an overflow relief gully (ORG)?

An overflow relief gully is located outside the home and it connected to the house drain.

## How does it work?

If the sewerage system becomes blocked causing the flow to back up, the loosely fitted grate on top of the ORG is designed to pop off completely allowing the sewage to overflow outside, rather than inside your home.

## Blockage causes

Overflows can be caused by:

- invading tree roots
- waste that has been incorrectly disposed of in sinks and toilets
- heavy rain.

## Your responsibilities?

It is the home owner's responsibility to make sure their home is fitted with a properly designed and operational ORG. If an ORG is not functioning correctly sewage spillages can occur inside your home..

## Caring for your ORG?

The best way to care for an ORG is to keep it clear by:

- Removing tiles, pot plants or materials that may be sitting on or obstructing the ORG
- Check that the grate is able to pop off easily and isn't stuck due to corrosion, or permanently fixed to concrete



- Make sure paving doesn't go over the ORG
- Make sure the ORG is not used as a stormwater drain as additional inflows can cause a backup in the network.

## Are there regulations?

The Plumbing and Drainage Standards - AS3500 state that every home should have an ORG.

## ORG Requirements:

- The grate on an ORG must be easily removed
- In general, they should be installed 75 millimeters above the surrounding ground

- Installed at least 150 millimeters lower than the lowest waste outlet fitting in the home
- A licensed plumber can install or investigate ORG's and advise you of the work and charges involved.

**For more information contact council on 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529).**