



every drop counts

Maintaining Your Overflow Relief Gully

What is an ORG?

An ORG (Overflow Relief Gully) is a small drain designed to release any sewage overflow away from the interior of your home. It is located outside the home, usually at the end of the house sewer system. Large houses with a few bathrooms may have more than one ORG.

How Does it Work?

The ORG is fitted at a depth lower than the floors in your house that have waste outlets, such as bathrooms, toilets and the laundry.

If a sewerage blockage occurs, the ORG grate should pop off to release the pressure and direct sewage away from the home.

How to Look After Your ORG

- Your ORG may not be able to do its job properly if it has something sitting on top of it, such as a pot plant or tiles. Ensure the grate is clear of any obstructions.
- Keep your ORG clear of roof drainpipes, pool backwash pipe connection and paving or landscaping sloping towards it, to prevent anything entering the sewerage system.
- The ORG grate must be loose so that it can pop off easily and completely in case of an overflow. Regularly check to ensure it isn't jammed or stuck down.

Sewerage blockages can have a great impact in our homes. All sewerage systems are subject to occasional blockages that could be caused by invading tree roots and/or waste that has been inappropriately disposed of down the sink or toilet. Heavy rain or a sewer blockage can also place pressure on the sewerage system, which can sometimes overflow.

Your Overflow Relief Gully, or ORG, will work to make sure the overflow happens outside instead of inside your house - as long as it's working properly.





Are They Covered by Regulations?

There are plumbing regulations that apply to the installation of ORGs (National Plumbing Code AS 3500 1998).

My Responsibilities

It is the property owner's responsibility to make sure their home is fitted with a properly designed and operational ORG.

Make sure that your ORG is not poorly designed – some of the newer uPVC fittings are designed to raise only slightly which is not sufficient in the event of a sewer blockage. Unless the ORG grate can pop off completely, it will ultimately become blocked.

Make sure that the ORG is set at the correct level. It should be installed to sit at least 150mm lower than the lowest waste outlet fitting in the house and 75mm above the surrounding ground (to ensure that stormwater does not flow directly into the ORG).

It is important to consider the drainage path of the ORG, as any spill from the ORG should be able to drain away quickly without causing damage and not build up around the ORG itself.

ORGs are a critical part of your sewerage system and should not be altered by the homeowner without the advice of a licensed plumber.

Who Do I Contact for Information or Installation?

A licensed plumber can install or investigate ORGs and advise you of the charges involved.

For advice on ORG height requirements, or to enquire about obtaining a copy of the House Drainage Plan for your property please contact Ipswich City Council's Plumbing Section by calling (07) 3810 6130.*

*There can be a cost involved and Plans for older properties may not be available.



www.ipswichwater.com.au
ipswichwater@ipswich.qld.gov.au



Commercial
business unit of
Ipswich City
Council

Customer Service Centre

Phone (07) 3810 7855
Fax (07) 3281 4742

Ipswich City Square
117 Brisbane Street
(Cnr Bell Street)
PO Box 191
Ipswich QLD 4305
Australia