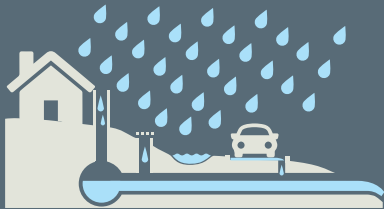


What is the difference between stormwater and wastewater?

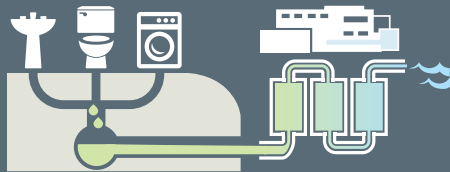
Stormwater



Stormwater is rain. During periods of heavy rain, when water draining from buildings and roads cannot be absorbed by the ground it needs to be collected so it doesn't cause flooding.

It flows from downpipes, roads and other stormwater drains directly into the public stormwater network, which empties into streams and the sea at selected points.

Wastewater



Wastewater, also known as sewage, is the used water that goes down sinks, washing machines, showers, baths and toilets. Most of it is water. The rest includes organic matter, such as human waste, food scraps, cooking fats, oil and grease, and debris, such as sand, grit and plastic.

Wastewater drains into gully traps and private wastewater pipes on your property. These connect to the public wastewater network, which carry your household wastewater to be treated at a wastewater treatment plant.

You pay Watercare for wastewater infrastructure through your monthly bills and Auckland Council for stormwater infrastructure through your property rates.