

Newsletter 01
November 2007

Class A Recycled Water

Coliban Water's Recycled Water Factory at the Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant in Epsom is now completed and is producing high quality Class A recycled water for use on parks, gardens, sporting ovals, school grounds, as well as industry and rural customers. Enhanced treatment through Reverse Osmosis will further improve water quality to better than Class A requirements by March 2008.



Specific conditions apply regarding the connection of recycled water, particularly when connecting to existing irrigation systems. Any plumbers undertaking connections to the recycled water supply are required to contact Coliban Water prior to commencing the works.

Web Pages for Plumbers

We are always building and improving our new web site. Currently we are looking to create a section just for plumbers. Information will be available regarding our requirements for connections, backflow prevention, trade waste, recycled water and customer responsibilities to name a few. Tell us what information would be useful on our website by emailing publicaffairs@coliban.com.au

Combined Sewerage Drains

What is a combined drain?

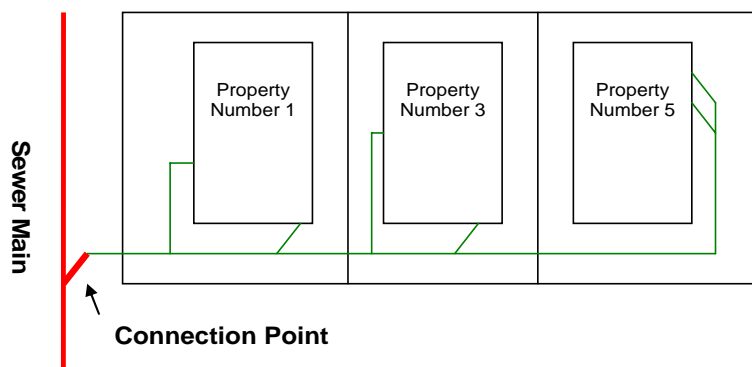
During the early 1900's, sewerage authorities introduced the concept of servicing a number of properties, at one sewerage connection point rather than extending the sewer to have separate sewerage connection points for each property.

Combined drains are predominately in residential properties. However, some commercial and industrial properties were also connected via a combined drain. Coliban Water no longer approves combined drains for new connections. All new properties have a separate sewerage connection point.

Who must maintain combined drains?

All property owners sharing a combined drain are responsible for maintenance up to the water corporation's sewer connection point.

Depending on the location of the defective drain or blockage, the responsibility may rest with an individual owner, a number of property owners or all property owners.



As shown in the above illustration, if the main sewerage line in Number 1 becomes blocked, then all three properties would contribute to the cost of repairs. If the blockage was in Number 3, then Number 3 and Number 5 would carry the cost of repairs. Should a blockage occur in Number 5, then Number 5 is wholly responsible for the cost of repairs.

Reverse Osmosis Plants



*Above:
Example of
R.O. Plant*

As the drought continues more people are installing water bores on their properties to water gardens etc. Bore water can be very salty and therefore when used directly on the garden can create problems with the soil and plants.

A simple (but expensive) solution can be to install a Reverse Osmosis (R.O.) plant which removes the salt from the bore water. For every 1000 litres of water put through an R.O. plant, about 300 litres of concentrated brine is produced.

Disposal of brine is a problem. Under no circumstances can brine from an R.O. plant be discharged to the sewerage system, stormwater system or into waterways.

Fire Services Repair & Use

Fire Services are incorporated within all non-residential and large residential properties for the sole purpose of fighting fires.

Maintenance of fire services

Fire Services form part of the building infrastructure and are therefore the responsibility of the property owner. The property owner is responsible for maintaining the fire service up to and including the fittings at the water main, the main isolation valve located directly off the water main, and fittings and piping associated with the fire service including mill cocks and hose and reels.

Repairs to fire services

In the event that Coliban Water become aware of a leak or burst on the fire service, a *Notice to Repair* will be issued to the property owner. The property owner is to obtain the services of a licensed plumber to carry out repairs within the time specified on the Notice.

Coliban Water may restrict the water supply if the repairs are not carried out within the specified time. This specified time can vary depending on the circumstances of the case.

Can a fire service be used for purposes other than fighting fires?

No. A fire service is provided for the sole purpose of fire fighting and is for emergency use only. It is not to be used as additional to the general water supply, or for construction purposes.