

Overflow Relief Gully (ORG)

What is an overflow relief gully?

An overflow relief gully (ORG) is a plumbing device designed to protect the inside of your house from spills in the event of a sewer blockage.

As the ORG is located outside, the interior of your house and valued possessions are more likely to be protected from a sewer spill.

Incorrect installation allowing stormwater to enter the ORG significantly increases the risk of a sewer spill inside your home.

What does an ORG look like?

An ORG is a drain-like fitting made of plastic or metal alloy located outside of your property.

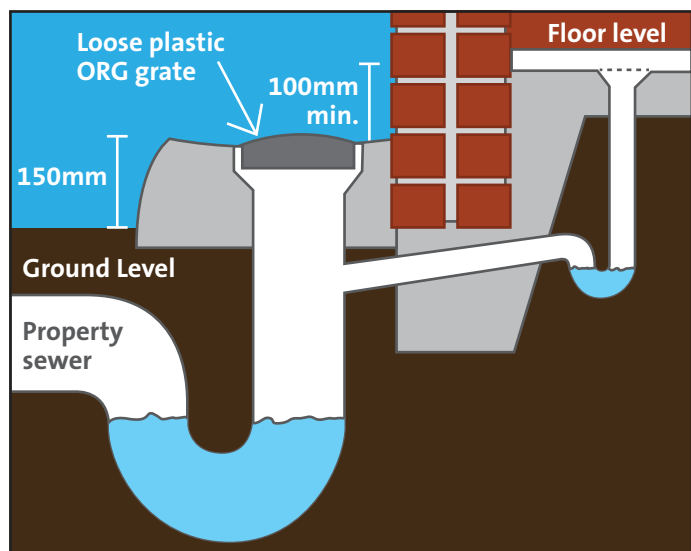


How does it work?

Should a sewer blockage cause the sewage flow to backup, the ORG is designed with a loose fitting grate that pops open to release wastewater outside of your home. The ORG should never be covered as this may prevent it from popping open and working well in an emergency.

There are plumbing standards that regulate the installation of ORGs and dictate that an ORG should be installed:

- at least 100mm lower than the lowest waste outlet in your home (e.g. basin, shower, toilet, etc.)
- at least 150mm above the surrounding ground to prevent storm water flowing into it.



Are all properties in the NT fitted with an ORG?

Properties connected to sewerage systems after the mid 1970s should have an ORG. Prior to this properties connected to sewerage did not have an ORG unless additional work was carried out.

Power and Water Corporation recommends property owners check their home to ensure an ORG has been fitted and if necessary arrange to have one installed by a licensed plumber.

What are customers' responsibilities with ORGs?

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

ORG checklist

Make sure your ORG is not:

- covered by landscaping and/or garden beds
- covered by any object, such as a pot plant
- unable to pop open because it is corroded, filled with silt or concreted in
- a grate that needs to be manually twisted in order to pop open
- installed at the wrong level
- allowing stormwater to enter



By ensuring that your ORG connection is installed in accordance with the plumbing code, you comply with the Water Supply and Sewer Services Act and NT Building Regulations.

Non-conforming ORGs can be fitted with a new type of attachment which provides effective vent and overflow relief functions, while preventing stormwater from entering the drains.

For more information, contact Power and Water Corporation on 1800 245 092 or a licensed plumber.