Misconnections: The problem

21st January 2015
What is a misconnection?

Check your home is connected right
Wastewater from sinks, showers or appliances may be polluting your local river.

Water from showers, toilets, sinks and appliances should connect to your foul sewer, so it can flow to your local sewage works for cleaning.

Rainwater runs off your roof, down you drainpipe and flows through surface water drains to local rivers helping the environment.

No appliances should be plumbed into your drainpipe. This sends waste into your local river killing wildlife.

To local river ←——— To sewage works
Misconnections
The problem with misconnections

- They are illegal!

- Environmental Impact

- Health
  - Contaminated river water
  - Odour

- Financial
  - Rectification costs
  - Legal costs
  - Blockages
Examples of Polluted Outfalls
Pollution tracing process

- Prioritise severity of pollution across catchment depending on size
- Identify misconnection problem by
  - Caging
  - Narrowing down
  - Property surveys
  - CCTV
What you can do?

- Connect Right first time!
- Make an appointment
- Rectify
- Check your property
Show me how to check my property

Follow this checklist to find out if you have misconnected drains. The more ‘yes’ answers, the more likely you will be to have a misconnection.

You may be able to answer the questions by simply looking around your property without using ladders or lifting drain covers outside. Don’t put your safety at risk and if necessary seek professional advice.

1. Was your house or property built after the 1920s?

Consider the age of your property and any surrounding properties. If built before 1920, it’s most likely to have ‘combined’ drainage where all wastewater and rainwater share a sewer that drains to the sewage works. If built later it’s highly likely to...
Fixing / avoiding the problem

- Use an ‘Approved Plumber’
  - Water Safe: www.watersafe.org.uk
  - Thames Water: www.thameswater.co.uk
Questions?