

# Home Pollution – sources of pollution in our everyday lives

On average, 118 pollution incidents are reported to Environmental Protection each year. One in six of these are caused by sewage or domestic related incidents. Many of the incidents occurring at people's homes could have been easily avoided if preventative measures had been put in place. This leaflet sets out some measures that can help to prevent pollution from your home.

## Drainage Systems

Your home has two water drainage systems, foul and surface water.

### Surface Water System

The surface water system includes most road and other outside drains and is designed to carry clean rain water from rooftops, roads and driveways. These often discharge into a stream and eventually to the sea.



Surface water road drain

### Foul Water System

The foul water system or sewerage system is designed to carry foul water from bathrooms, toilets, kitchens and water using appliances. The waste water goes to Bellozanne Sewage Treatment Works or to your own sewage disposal system (if you are not on mains drains).



Drain in kitchen sink

It is important to be aware that you, the householder's, are responsible for all drainage on your land and should ensure it is properly maintained and fit for purpose.

You should know which drains are which on your property. If you suspect that your foul or surface drains may be wrongly connected consult your plumber or contact a specialised drainage contractor (see Yellow Pages).

Environmental Protection regularly monitor inland and coastal waters. Please contact us if you would like to know more about our Island's water quality (tel: 709535).

**Water Pollution Hotline**  
Tel: **709535**

## Water Pollution and the Law

Causing or knowingly permitting pollution of controlled waters (e.g. streams and groundwater) is an offence under the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000. Strong defences are available to persons adhering to the advice given within this leaflet.

If you extract water from a well, borehole or stream you are required to register or licence it under the Water Resources (Jersey) Law 2007. This will help Environmental Protection to protect your water supply should pollution occur. For more information please go to [www.gov.je/water](http://www.gov.je/water).

States of Jersey

Planning and Environment Department

For more information please contact Environmental Protection, Planning and Environment Department, through the 24-hour Water Pollution Hotline: **Tel: 709535**

\*TTS is an abbreviation for the States of Jersey Department Transport and Technical Services who deal with waste disposal on Jersey.

Information for this leaflet has been obtained from the Environment Agency, UK. Printed on recycled paper.

# Home Pollution

## What to look out for...

Protecting drinking water and our Island's environment

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# Potential pollutants in and around your home

## Oil

Oil tanks and pipework should be maintained annually and checked regularly for leaks. If a leak occurs contact the 24 hour Water Pollution Hotline number tel: 709535.

Used oils (e.g. vehicle oil change) should be stored in their original containers and kept in a safe place. These must be disposed of at TTS' waste disposal site.

Dispose of used cooking oil in your household rubbish or soak it up with bread to use as bird feed.

**Oil should never be disposed of down any drain.**

## Chemicals

Chemicals used at home include paints, pesticides, timber treatments and white spirits.

Unwanted chemicals should be disposed of at TTS' waste disposal sites.

Follow the instructions on the product label carefully and store any unwanted product in its original container for use or disposal at a later date.

**Never dispose of waste chemicals or wash out paint brushes/pots into surface water drains or watercourses.**

## Sewage

Domestic sewage leaking from mains sewerage or malfunctioning private treatment systems (e.g. septic tank / tight tank) can cause pollution of water courses and groundwater.

Pollution of groundwater can directly affect drinking water supplies. Approximately 10% of households in Jersey rely on groundwater as their only source of drinking water.

If sewage enters a water course it can cause ill health, is unsightly and can render the water unsuitable for drinking.

It also reduces oxygen levels and can be toxic to wildlife.



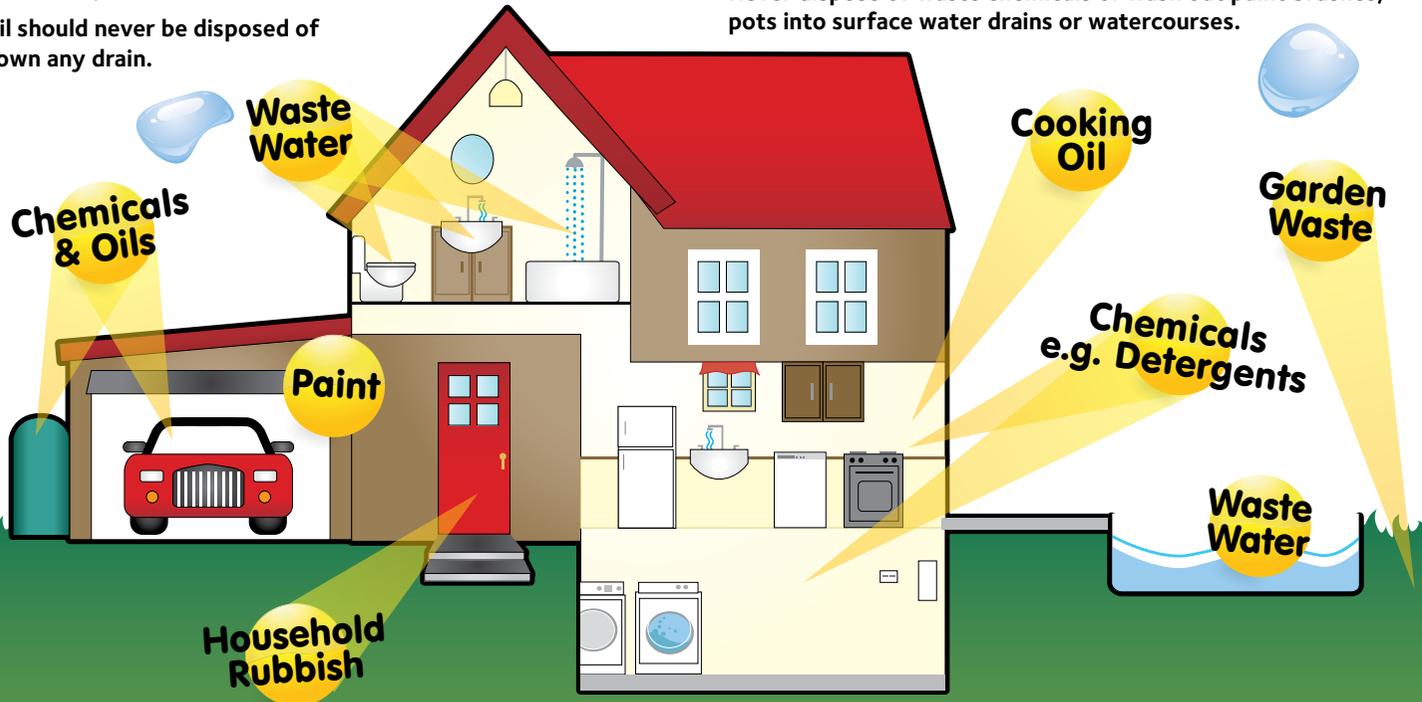
## Private sewerage system

If your house is not connected to mains drains, it will have a tight tank, septic tank or another form of private treatment system. Make sure you know how your sewage system works and where it flows into.

All private sewage systems need routine maintenance and/or regular emptying. Maintenance of private treatment systems should be carried out by specialised drainage contractors (see Yellow Pages).

TTS\* offer an inspection and emptying service.

Private sewage treatment systems may require a discharge permit under the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000. Contact Environmental Protection for advice Tel: 709535.



## Household and Garden waste

Household rubbish that is not disposed of correctly can enter streams causing them to flood, look unsightly and can cause pollution.

Garden Waste can be composted at your own property or at the Island's composting site at La Collette.



## Swimming Pools

Contact TTS\* for permission to discharge waste water from swimming pools into the foul sewer. If no mains drains are available, contact Environmental Protection Tel: 709535.

## Car and Patio Washing

Use little or no detergent when washing cars, patios, exterior surfaces etc. Ideally take your car to an appropriate car wash.

Do not allow soapy water to enter a surface water drain because detergents can cause pollution.



Contact Transport and Technical Services for advice on disposal of all household wastes  
Tel: 445509



Blocked foul sewer