

Maintaining your Overflow Relief Gully (ORG)

What is an ORG?

An Overflow Relief Gully (ORG) is a small drain designed to release any sewage overflow away from the interior of your home. It is located outside the home, usually at the end of the house sewer system. Large houses with a few bathrooms may have more than one ORG.



The ORG is fitted at a depth lower than the floors in your house that have waste outlets, such as bathrooms, toilets and the laundry. If a sewerage blockage occurs, the ORG grate should pop off to release the pressure and direct sewage away from the home.

Looking After Your ORG

Your ORG may not be able to do its job properly if it has something sitting on top of it, such as a pot plant or tiles. Ensure that the grate is clear of any obstructions

Keep the ORG clear of roof drainpipes, pool backwash pipe connection and paving or landscape sloping towards it, to prevent anything entering the sewerage system.

The ORG grate must be loose so that it can pop off easily and completely in case of an overflow. Regularly check to ensure it isn't jammed or stuck down.

Your Responsibilities

It is the property owner's responsibility to make sure their home is fitted with a properly designed and operational ORG. There are plumbing regulations that apply to the installation of ORGs (National Plumbing Code AS 3500 1998).

Make sure that your ORG is set at the correct level. It should be installed to sit at least 150mm lower than the lowest waste outlet fitting in the house and 75mm above the surrounding ground (to ensure that stormwater does not flow directly into the ORG).

It is important to consider the drainage path of the ORG, as any spill from the ORG should be able to drain away quickly without causing damage and not build up around the ORG itself.

ORGs are a critical part of your sewerage system and should not be altered by the homeowner without the advice of a licenced plumber.



For more information, please contact council on 1300 878 001 or enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au