

Surface water drainage - household 2012/2013

Saving for a rainy day

It always seems to be raining in the North West. So it's good news that our vast network of underground sewer pipes help to drain away the drops!

Part of your water bill pays for us to take away the rainwater that falls onto your property – including your roof, your driveway and your path. You'll find this charge itemised in your bill, under the heading 'surface water drainage.'

Some properties, however, are drained naturally. The rainwater flows directly into a brook, stream, or a soak-away, without ever entering the sewer system. If your property fits this description, you could qualify for a welcome reduction in your bill.

Does your property fit the bill?

To qualify for money off your bill, you need to prove that all the rainwater that falls on your property (including your roof, drive, patio, yard etc.) drains directly into the ground, or a watercourse such as a brook or stream, or a soakaway – without ever entering our sewer pipes.

You'll need to carry out some detective work to find out for sure. There's plenty of information at unitedutilities.com/surfacewaterhome to help you.

If the rainwater does enter our pipes at any point on its journey – even very briefly – a reduction in your charges won't be possible. Sorry!

To summarise, you could be entitled to a reduction if:

Either:

- **All** the rainwater or groundwater from your property drains directly to the ground or via a soakaway

Or:

- **All** the rainwater or ground water from your property drains directly into a watercourse, brook or stream and does not enter the public sewer.

Or:

- You pay a third party e.g. British Waterways to dispose of your surface water.

Unfortunately, you won't be entitled to a reduction if:

- Any proportion of your surface water drains to a public sewer.
- Only part of your surface water goes to a soakaway with some surface water still draining to the public sewer.
- You have re-directed your roof drainage into water butts.
- You drain to a watercourse, brook or stream via a public sewer.

Think your property is eligible? Then please fill in the attached application form, and don't forget to draw us a picture in the space provided. This will help us if we need to visit your property to carry out a test to check whether your property drains to the public sewer.

How much could you save?

If you qualify for a reduction in your charges, and you have a water meter, we'll reduce your annual wastewater fixed charge from £71.00 to £34.00.

If you don't have a water meter, and your charges are based on the rateable value of your property, you could save around 23% on your wastewater charges.

The reduction will take effect from the start of the charging year in which we receive your application. The billing year runs from April 1 – March 31. Unfortunately, we are not able to backdate your reduction any further than that.

Once the changes to your bill have been made, they will apply automatically each year. However, please do let us know if you make any subsequent property alterations which affect your drainage arrangements.

How to contact us about the information in this leaflet



unitedutilities.com/surfacewaterhome



0845 746 2222

Opening hours:
8am – 8pm Mon to Fri;
8am – 5pm Sat



United Utilities
Customer Service Centre
PO Box 50
Warrington
WA55 1AQ

Your questions answered

If I am eligible, do I need to apply every year?

No, your charges will be amended automatically each year. However, if you make any alterations to your property, or existing drainage, please let us know.

(Please note: if you pay a third party to dispose of your surface water you will need to reapply each year).

My neighbour has recently received an allowance, will I be entitled to one?

Each claim is assessed on an individual basis. For further information please visit our website unitedutilities.com/surfacewaterhome.

If my claim for surface water drainage is allowed, will the highway drainage charge also be removed?

Unfortunately we cannot offer a reduction in your highway drainage charge. Rainwater drains to our public sewer network from roads and highways, which we then collect and treat before discharging back into rivers and seas. Since we all benefit from this service all our wastewater customers must pay this charge, regardless of whether we have reduced the surface water drainage part of your charges.

Application to reduce surface water charges for household customers 2012/2013



Please complete the form and return it to the address shown below.

Important: we can only backdate your reduction in surface water charges to 1st April of the charging year in which we receive your application form. (Our charging year runs from 1st April to 31st March.)

Customer account number (shown on top of your bill)										
Name and title		First name								
Surname										
Address										
Postcode										
Daytime telephone number										
Mobile telephone number										
Evening telephone number										
Type of property (please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> Detached house		<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-detached house							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Terraced house		<input type="checkbox"/> Bungalow							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat		<input type="checkbox"/> Link detached							
Other (please specify)										
Approximate year built										
If your property is a flat, office or other property with a shared roof, where does the surface water from the roof drain to?										
Does your property have a soakaway?									<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
To help us consider your application, please draw a diagram overleaf of your house, garden/yard showing where your surface water drains to. If your property has a soakaway please include its approximate position.										
Declaration (please tick each statement)										
I will notify United Utilities if the drainage arrangements for my property change.										<input type="checkbox"/>
I agree to allow a representative of United Utilities access to my property, at any reasonable time, to verify the drainage arrangements.										<input type="checkbox"/>
I have read the information contained in this leaflet and on the website at unitedutilities.com/surfacewaterhome and I can confirm that no surface water drains to the public sewer, either directly or indirectly from the roof, shared roof, drive, yard etc of the property to which the bill relates.										<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature										
Date										

Diagram of your property showing where the surface water drains and the position of a soakaway (if you have one).

Please enclose all supporting documentation and send it with this form to:
United Utilities, Customer Service Centre, PO Box 50, Warrington WA55 1AQ



About us

United Utilities is the North West's water company. We keep the taps flowing and toilets flushing for seven million customers every day. From Crewe to Carlisle, we work hard behind the scenes to help your life flow smoothly.

United Utilities Water PLC, Haweswater House, Lingley Mere Business Park, Lingley Green Avenue, Warrington WA5 3LP.
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