

The objectives of drainage

The principal function of drainage is to remove unwanted water from an area as rapidly as possible. Good drainage is critical to the general well-being of a site. Lack of adequate drainage causes rapid deterioration of road and path surfaces, restricts pedestrian and vehicular movement, results in damage to buildings and their contents, and creates generally insanitary conditions including potential sites for insect breeding.

The requirements are for:

- **Drainage of sullage**, that is, household wastewater which has been used for washing, cooking or cleaning purposes, but which does not contain excreta;
- **Drainage of stormwater**, that is, water which runs off the buildings and land as a result of rainfall.

Separate sullage drainage is not required if sewerage is used as the system of sanitation; all sullage can be discharged into the sewers.

Sullage drainage

It is important to ensure adequate sullage drainage both from houses and communal water supply points such as standposts and handpumps; between 50-80 per cent of the water supplied may end up as sullage. Water from personal use and clothes washing may be contaminated with pathogens, but to nothing like the same extent as toilet wastes. There is likely to be a significant amount of organic matter in water which has been used for food preparation and cleaning cooking utensils.



