

And this is what it means:

On 1 October 2011 the government will be transferring all sewage pipes outside your property boundaries and all sewage pipes which are shared with another property within your boundary to the sewerage/water companies. Privately owned pumping stations which meet the same criteria will also be adopted by sewerage/water companies on or before 1 October 2016.

Why is the transfer taking place?

At present, property owners are usually responsible for the sewage pipes that drain into public sewers, up to the point that they connect to those sewers. This can include pipes that go beyond their property boundary. People are often unaware that they are responsible for repairs and on-going maintenance of these drains or pipes until a problem occurs and they are hit by a potentially large bill.

The transfer will give more effective maintenance of assets, reduce neighbour disputes over repair costs and will allow for a better approach to managing the sewerage network.

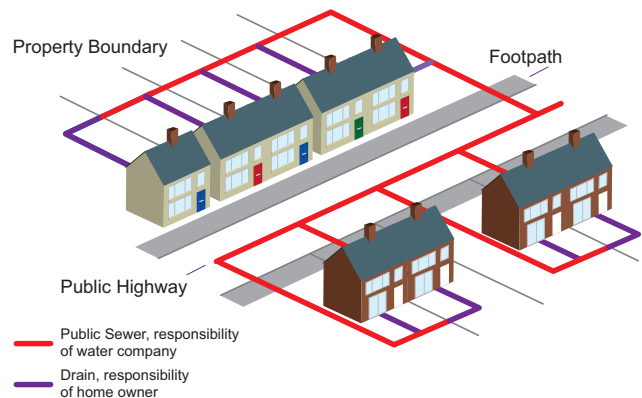
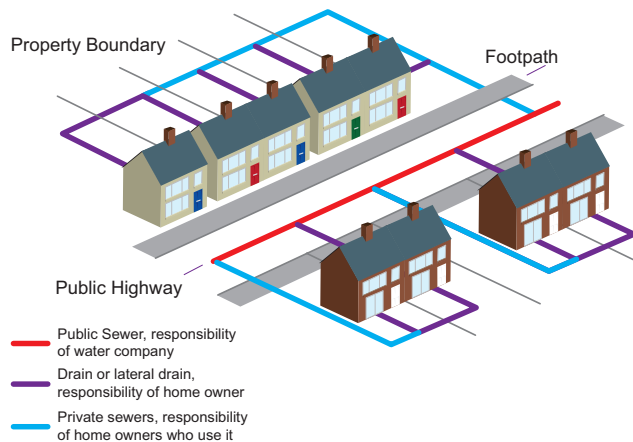
How will responsibilities change?

Today

Property owners are usually responsible for everything up to the main sewer, including the connection.

Post-transfer

- All sewers outside property boundaries and sewers within property boundaries which are shared with another property will transfer to Severn Trent Water.
- Property owners remain responsible for the private drains within their boundary.



You do not need to do anything. The pipes which transfer to us will transfer automatically. Drainage pipes within your property boundary, which drain just your property, will remain your responsibility.

How will this affect my bill?

Sewerage bills will be impacted by the additional responsibility we will be taking on, the cost of which will be spread across all customers. The government body DEFRA has estimated that this could add between £3 and £14 to customers' bills per year, but this could be higher and will be dependant on the rate of wear and tear of pipes, numbers of blockages and OFWAT, who regulate the water industry's charges. You can help keep Severn Trent Water's bills as low as possible by not putting fats and oils down the sink and not flushing away sanitary products, baby wipes and cotton buds. We will continue to ensure you receive the best possible value for money for the service you receive.

For more information and frequently asked questions go to www.stwater.co.uk/sewerownership