

Drains empty into our rivers

Our streams, rivers and lakes must be kept clean! Not only to provide an ideal habitat for wildlife and plants, but also to offer residents and visitors to Hanover a clean, healthy and safe natural environment where they can enjoy their leisure time. Unfortunately, as many people don't know how to safely dispose of water that has been used for general cleaning purposes and for washing cars, and even pour used oil and other poisonous substances or wastes into grates without thinking, much of it ends up polluting these waters. Bodies of water are very sensitive and, once they have been polluted, can take many years to recover. Such long-term damage to the balance of nature kills off plants and animals or makes it impossible for them to live in and around our waterways.

YOU CAN HELP US TO STOP THIS UNNECESSARY POLLUTION AND KEEP OUR PRECIOUS WATERS CLEAN.



Stadtentwässerung



Hannover

Wir klären das.



STADTENTWÄSSERUNG HANNOVER

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30165 Hannover

Phone 0511 168-4 73 77
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Mon.-Thu. from 9 a.m to 3 p.m.
and Fri. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
or by appointment

24-hour emergency hotline

...when things are not running as they should

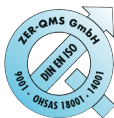
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SCENE OF THE CRIME. THE DRAINS.
ROADSIDE GRATES ARE ONLY FOR RAIN AND SNOW

www.stadtentwaerung-hannover.de

LANDESHAUPTSTADT HANNOVER


HANNOVER


Scene of the crime: The drains.





DRAINS ARE FOR RAINWATER AND MELTED SNOW – AND NOTHING ELSE!
 You may not know, but letting contaminated water run into the drains is against the law.
 As a **CIVIL OFFENCE** under the byelaws of the City of Hanover, polluting water can bring YOU a fine of up to **5,000 EUROS.**


Here's how you can help to reduce water pollution to a minimum.

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If you have been cleaning around the house, please always empty the bucket of dirty water into the toilet, washbasin or bath when you have finished.
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If you need to wash your car, please take it to a filling station and use their special equipment or have it cleaned in a commercial car wash. Both will make sure that none of the dirty water can get into the drains.
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If it's time to change the oil in your car, please take it to a filling station or garage. They have special containers for collecting used oil for proper disposal. By the way, did you know that the law says that the place where you bought your oil has to take it back when it's used? All you have to do is take it along to them, show a receipt that proves that you bought it there and they will safely dispose of the old oil for you.
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If you are cleaning the outside of a building, you must make sure that the water and cleaning chemicals you use cannot get into the drains. By the way, if you are planning to clean walls or roof of a building, you must first apply for permission from us at Stadtentwässerung Hannover. Doing it without permission is against the law!
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If you are walking through town and think it's OK to drop cigarette ends, chewing gum and wrapping papers on the street or down the nearest grate, DON'T! Things like this must always be put in a waste bin – one will never be far away.



Thank you for helping us to protect the environment and make your city a healthier place to live.

Hanover has separate drains and sewers. This is how it works.

So why is it important that nothing but rainwater goes into the drains?

In Hanover, we have drains to carry away rainwater and separate sewers for wastewater. By the way, wastewater is also commonly known as sewage. As rainwater is more or less clean, it bypasses our sewage treatment plants and finds its way into the ground or into rivers and streams. The main advantage of this is that it stops water that doesn't need to be cleaned flowing into our sewage treatment plants.

With a traditional, combined rainwater and wastewater system, heavy rain could bring a flood of water that our sewage works are not built to handle, with the result that a mixture of clean water and sewage could overflow and pollute our rivers.

With separate drains, rainwater can flow into rivers or be collected in special ponds where it seeps away naturally to refill natural water reservoirs in the ground. This, in turn, ensures sustainable resources of clean water for the future needs of our region.

1. Wastewater (sewage) 2. Rainwater

