

Drainage systems

Highway drains help to keep water off the highway and make it safe for drivers and other road users. Kent Highways look after drains, ponds and lagoons, pumping stations and soakaways. They do not look after sewers, water leaks or ditches on private land. If you are concerned about **flooding on a road** make sure you let the right people know.

Drains

Drains are made up of gullies - the metal grids you see along the side of the road that allow water to be collected. The water is then taken away in pipes to local rivers or into large containers in the ground called soakaways where it will gradually seep into the ground.

Kent Highways clean drains regularly. How often they clean the drains varies depending on where they are.

Type of road	Description	Frequency
Flood routes	Roads known to flood frequently	Every 6 months
High speed roads	Roads with a speed limit of 70mph	Every 6 months
Strategic routes	Roads that are the main connection between towns and villages	Every 12 months
Urban and rural routes	All other roads	Every 18 to 24 months

How you can help

There are some things you can do to help keep roads free from water:

- don't tip waste such as concrete and oil down the drains as this can block the pipes and contaminate nearby streams, rivers and land
- park your car somewhere else if you see signs telling you that cleansing will take place. We can't clean the drains if your car is in the way
- if fallen leaves are covering the gully grills and you can safely remove them then please do. These can be disposed of in your normal rubbish bin or in a compost bin.

When removing leaves from drains, be careful not to step into traffic on the road and be aware of pedestrians on pavements.

Don't lift the drain covers or put your hands into the drain as there might be sharp objects you cannot see. Wearing gloves is always a good idea if you are clearing leaves by hand