

HOW IT WORKS

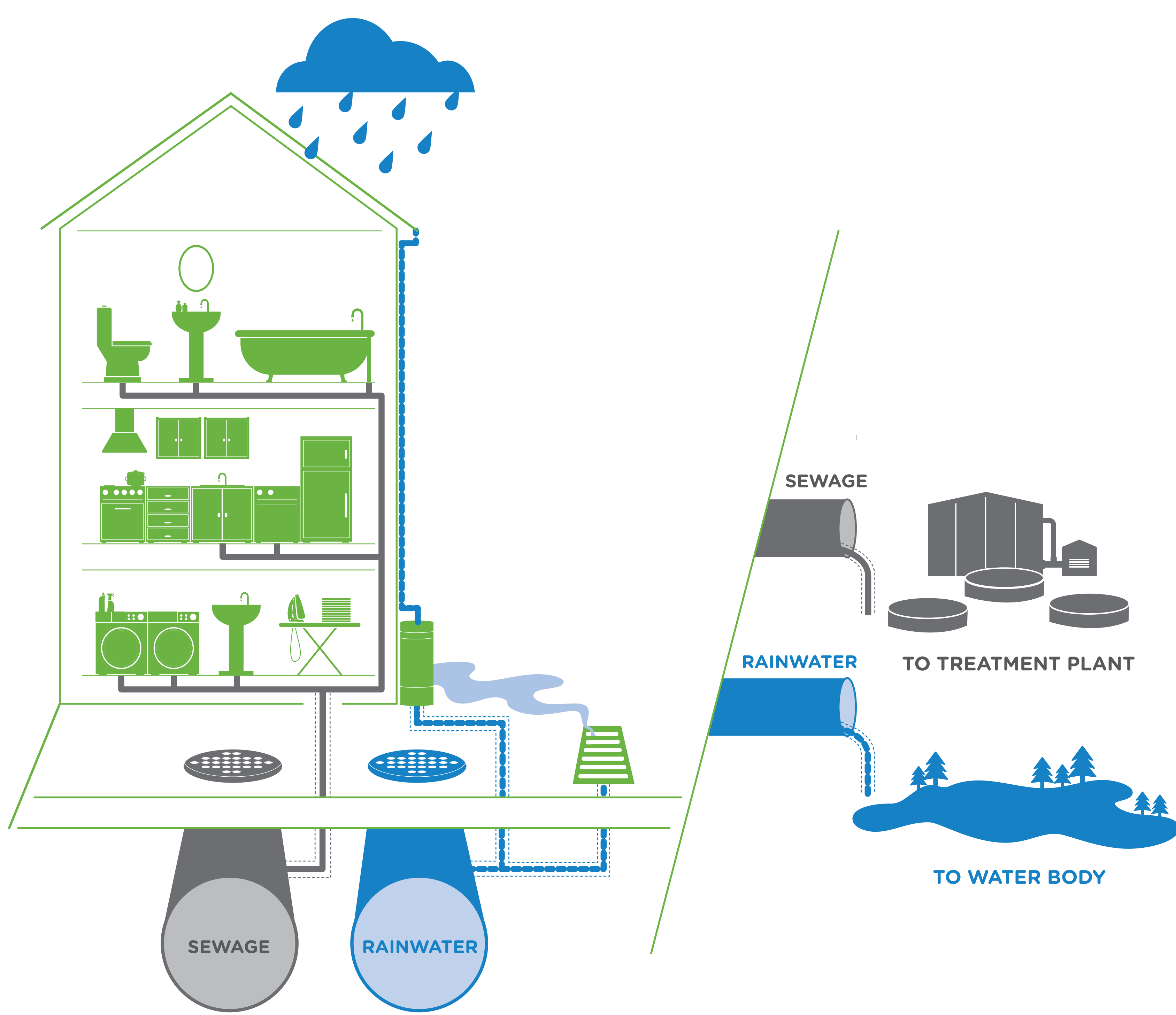
VANCOUVER'S SEWER SYSTEM

Vancouver's water and sewer system is a complex network of pipes that delivers 114 billion litres of fresh, potable water into Vancouver homes and businesses, and removes excess water and sewage for treatment. Annual sewer maintenance helps the City of Vancouver extend the life of sewer pipes. The life expectancy of an underground sewer main is approximately 100 years. Underground pipes deteriorate over time due to soil conditions and age.

The City is also building on the latest environmental studies to develop systems to collect rainwater and stormwater runoff from buildings, roads, and parking lots to carry into the local waterways, like Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River. In addition, Vancouver is working toward the Province of BC's environmental goal to replace all combined sewer systems with separated sewer systems by 2050. This will stop untreated sewage overflows entering our waterways.



YOUR TURN!



You can help protect our natural waterways by keeping storm drains free of oils, grease and other contaminants.

Paint, oil, and other chemicals:
Find a take-back program
Find where you can safely dispose of paint, oil, batteries and other household chemicals through the Recycling Council of BC.

Vehicles: Regular checkups
Ensure your vehicle has regular checkups and isn't leaking. Oil and other vehicle fluids are a major source of creek pollution.

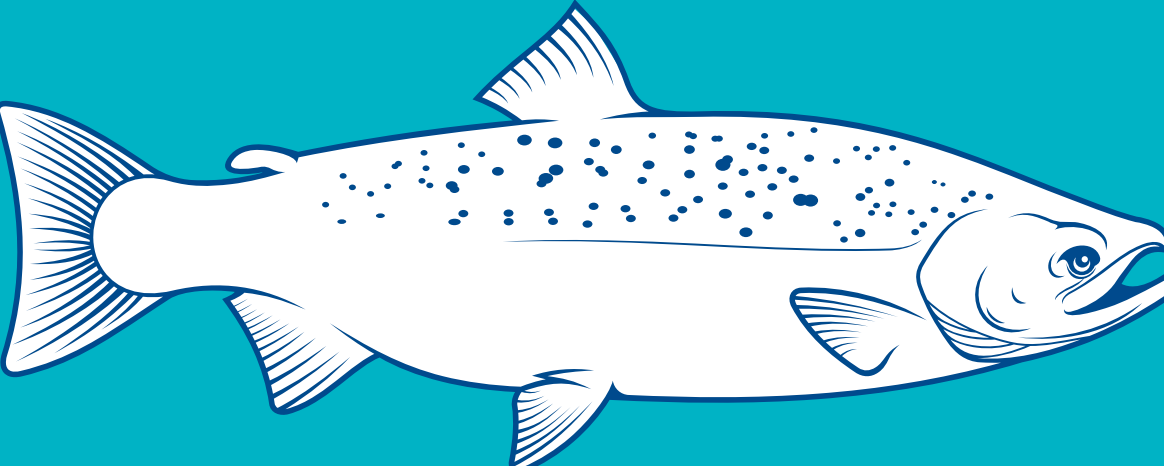
Vehicles: Use a car wash
Car washes discharge the soapy water to the sanitary sewer. Soap from washing your vehicle can be harmful to a local watershed.

Hot tub and pool water:
Don't dump in the storm sewer
Chemicals added to hot tubs and pools are toxic to fish. Empty them into a sanitary sewer drain by running the drain hose to a sink or bathtub.

Pesticides and herbicides:
Be selective
Learn about environmentally friendly alternatives to pesticides and herbicides at: vancouver.ca/grownatural

DID YOU KNOW?

In the early 1800s the waters off Vancouver were home to hundreds of grey and humpback whales. Local impacts and pollution in the waterways depleted their population and they have been rarely seen near Vancouver's shores since the 1960s. But on May 5, 2010 Vancouverites watched with glee as a 12 metre long grey whale followed a run of herring into False Creek. Since then, natural waterways throughout Vancouver have seen the return of beavers, salmon, river otters, and more whales.



Learn more about our water and what you can do to protect it: vancouver.ca/waterwise