Remember:

- Check the reading on your water meter regularly in order to detect hidden leaks in time.
- Make sure that your water meter does not freeze.
- Make sure that your water service valve is visible.
- Make sure that basement spaces below the backflow prevention height are appropriately protected. Regularly service the basic water drain and backflow valves in the basement spaces, as well as property-specific wastewater pumping stations. You can check the backflow prevention height in your water supply contract or by contacting your water utility.
- Take a look in your property's drains and make sure that subsurface drains are clear and that no rainwater can make its way into the wastewater sewer.
- Replace leaky taps and toilets.
- Check the water and drainage connections of any devices that use water, and always remember to shut off the taps to your dishwasher or washing machine after use.
- Please don't use your toilet as a rubbish bin. Grease, rubbish and other leftover materials do not belong in the drains. More information is available from: www.pytty.fi
- Clean the stench traps of floor drains and sinks regularly.

Do you know what's hiding beneath your lawn?

Vesilaitosyhdistys
Vattenverksföreningen VVY

Old service lines are a risk

Water supply and sewerage in Finland are at a high international standard. But water utilities alone do not guarantee that the system will function as it should. To ensure fresh, good-quality tap water and functional sewerage, properties must renovate their own water and sewerage lines. We only usually think about sewers once they become blocked or if the basement floods. Unlike peeling wallpaper or flaky paint, service lines are not visible to the owner. Water pipelines and sewers more than 50 years old or which are in poor condition are like a ticking time-bomb. A timely renovation can have a significant impact on a property's value, improve the reliability of your water supply, and reduce the risk of water and moisture damage.

The boundary for liability for the water pipeline network between the property and the water utility lies in the water mains or at the water service valve. The liability boundary for wastewater and storm water is at the main sewer or connection manhole. Backflow valves or pumping stations in basement spaces are also the property's responsibility. If sewage floods into the spaces below backflow prevention height, the property is solely responsible for the damage caused by the flood.

Water pipelines that are more than 50 years old can close up almost entirely, weakening water quality.

Your bank balance and the environment

Leaky service lines and untreated storm water cost both the environment and properties them-selves dearly. Infiltration of surface and ground waters into sewers costs the water utility, and this cost can be seen in customers' water bills. The same applies to the household water lines, where every lost drop of water can cost. In addition, energy is also consumed as in some water utilities, waste-water is pumped many times before it ends up at the wastewater treatment plant. Cold rainwater in wastewater sewers also disrupts the wastewater treatment process and burdens the environment.

Water utilities treat wastewater effectively. During heavy rainfall, the amount of water that is drained can temporarily increase to such a large volume that it exceeds the capacity of the sewerage system and treatment plant. This means that untreated wastewater has to be discharged directly into waterways.

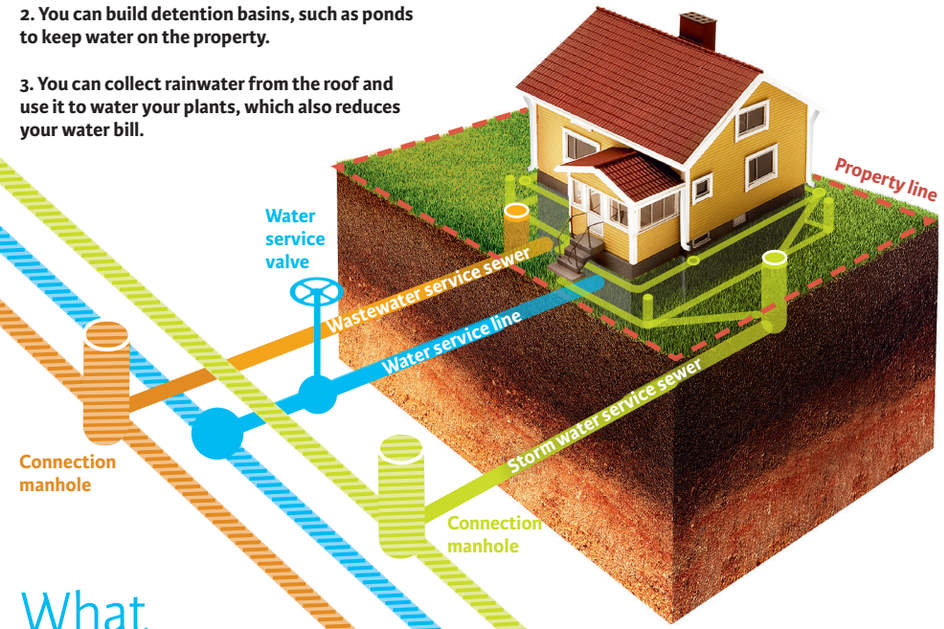
Water utilities have observed that a large amount of infiltration of surface and ground waters that ends up in wastewater sewers comes from plots during periods of heavy rain. The reasons for this include sewers which are in poor condition, poorly installed manholes, or rainwater that is diverted away incorrectly.

Rainwater must be diverted away from the property, either to a run-off drain or an open gully. The same applies to subsurface drain water. Here are some solutions for your plot that can help to increase the functionality of storm water sewerage:

1. Use permeable surfaces rather than asphalt.

2. You can build detention basins, such as ponds to keep water on the property.

3. You can collect rainwater from the roof and use it to water your plants, which also reduces your water bill.



The diagonally lined sections are the responsibility of the water utility.

What can I do?

It's well worth carrying out a renovation of your service lines in time, since insurance will not ne-cessarily cover damage caused by neglect. An increase in the value of your property and safeguarding your own belongings are good motivation for a renovation project. Property water lines and sewers should be renovated no later than when water supply and sewerage lines are renovated in the street. One rule of thumb is to remember that well-made pipelines will last around 50 years.