



PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL

11 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide SA 5000
PO Box 6, Rundle Mall, SA 5000

Telephone (08) 8226 7100
Fax (08) 8226 7102

SA HEALTH

CIRCULAR TO LOCAL COUNCILS

APRIL 2009

SA WATER ADVICE ON DRAINS LOCATED UNDER BUILDINGS

Pursuant to the Public and Environmental Health (Waste Control) Regulations 1995, and its prescribed codes (including AS/NZS 3500), local government has delegated authority from the Minister for installation approval of on site systems compliant with the above prescribed codes and in particular underfloor plumbing layouts.

For some years, an agreement has been in place with SA Water to advise SA Health and local government on matters relating to plumbing standards.

Recently issues have arisen with respect to drains to be installed under buildings with some environmental health officers rejecting underfloor plumbing designs on the basis that drains were located under the slab of a dwelling.

It should be noted that SA Water has no objection to sanitary drains being installed near or under a building as long as the installation complies with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the Plumbing Code of Australia.

It should also be noted that AS/NZS 3500:5:2000 is currently being revised and Section 4, Clause 4.10 (a) will be changed to a note in the revision.

Environmental health officers/ SA Health staff should note the above information when assessing underfloor drainage designs as part of any application.

Please contact the SA Health Wastewater Management Section on 8226 7100 for further information.

Yours sincerely

Dr Chris Lease
Deputy Presiding Member
Public and Environmental Health Council