Excavations often require prior dewatering. Water pumped from excavations can be muddy (silty) and can be contaminated. Sections of existing sewers and pipelines are sometimes taken out of service to allow repair or alterations and flows can be maintained by installing temporary pumps and 'overpumping' those sections. The improper discharge of water polluted by mud or contaminants can cause serious damage to watercourses.

It is illegal to allow polluted water to enter a watercourse or surface drain. If water is discharged into a sewer or gulley of insufficient capacity then flooding will occur, potentially causing pollutants to enter watercourses or creating nuisance to site neighbours.

DO

- ✓ Check with your line manager whether any treatment systems are required before final discharge of pumped out water. Typical systems include: settlement tanks, discharge over grassed areas, through silt socks or hay bales.
- ✓ Check that the point of discharge is to the correct location, that is to the sewer, manhole or gully as set out by your line manager.
- ✓ Check that all couplings and other pipework fittings are secure.
- ✓ Periodically check that any treatment systems are working, water being finally discharged is clear of silt or solids and is not causing damage to the bed or banks of any watercourse.
- ✓ NOTIFY your line manager immediately if you notice:
  - pollution (muddy water, oils etc) occurring;
  - the discharge causing flooding; or
  - any pipework is damaged or connections have broken or are leaking.

DON'T

- ✗ DON'T leave pumping operations unattended for long periods unless authorised to do so by your line manager.
- ✗ DON'T continue with overpumping if the receiving sewer or pipeline cannot cope with the capacity.
- ✗ DON'T ignore signs that pollution is occurring, for example muddy water entering watercourses or gullies.
- ✗ DON'T tamper with pipework or discharge points without the authorisation of your line manager.