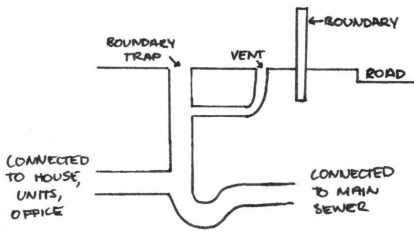


How to disconnect from Sydney Water for less than \$300

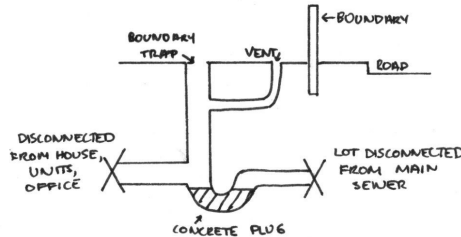
It is lawful for a house, residential units, offices or subdivision to disconnect or to choose not to connect to Sydney Water's water or sewer pipes anywhere in Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Wollongong.

Sewer:

1. Fill in the Sydney Water disconnection form called "Application form - unconnected properties or disconnection of services" (from <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/YourAccount/>)
2. Book a Sydney Water inspector to watch a plumber pour about half a bag of dry mix concrete into the gully trap
3. Pay the fee of \$142



Before



After



concrete in the gully trap



locked water meter

Water:

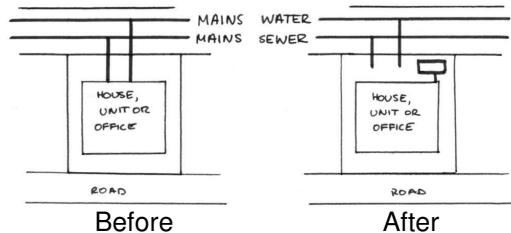
1. Fill in the same disconnection form as for the sewer
2. Book a Sydney Water inspector to oversee a plumber undo the pipe on the household side of the water meter
3. Sydney Water will place a metal hood over its water tap on the Sydney Water mains side of the water meter and lock it
4. There is no Sydney Water fee. A licensed plumber must be present and will charge for what should be less than an hour of time, or less than \$150 or so.

Sydney Water will add a note to the plan it has of your property saying "not connected" to alert buyers and builders that the property is not connected to Sydney Water.

Savings for a household

Fixed charges per year:
for water ~ \$100
for sewer ~ \$390

Total saving per year
~\$490



Before

After

Once off cost:
for sewer = \$142
for plumber ~\$150

Total disconnection cost
<\$300

Upon disconnecting you will no longer pay Sydney Water any money. In ten years you will save over \$4,900 from one initial cost of less than \$300, enough to pay for your rain tank and more.

Tips and Likely Problems

If you run out of water order a water cart to top up your rain tank. The cost is about \$150 to \$250 for 10 000 litres. Search the Yellow Pages under "Water Cartage". Your plumber will probably say, "You can't do that", as the innovation is new and most plumbers don't yet know about it.

Michael Mobbs 03 July 2007