


# Tell-tale signs that your sewage treatment system isn't working



Looked after properly, your private sewage treatment system will keep working happily for years. But how can you tell if something is going wrong? Here are a few signs to look out for that might mean your system isn't working as it should be...

## 1. Drains are slow to clear or toilets are backing up

These are the most obvious signs that your system isn't working. It could be that pipes are blocked, the tank is full of solids or the drainage field is clogged up.

## 2. The ground above the drainage field or soakaway is spongy or has lots of lush vegetation and grass growing

This is also a sign that the drainage field might be clogged up.

## 3. Dark, smelly liquid at the end of the discharge pipe

A clear liquid is normal, anything dark, smelly or containing solids means there's a problem with your system.

If you spot any of these signs, or are worried that your system might be failing, don't panic! Just get in touch with [britishwater.co.uk/directory/postal-code.aspx](http://britishwater.co.uk/directory/postal-code.aspx) and get it sorted as soon as possible.