

Surface Water Charging – How It Works



What is surface water drainage and highway drainage

Surface water drainage is the collection of rainwater that falls on premises and then drains directly or otherwise to public sewers.

Highway drainage is water which drains from streets and roads into a public sewer.

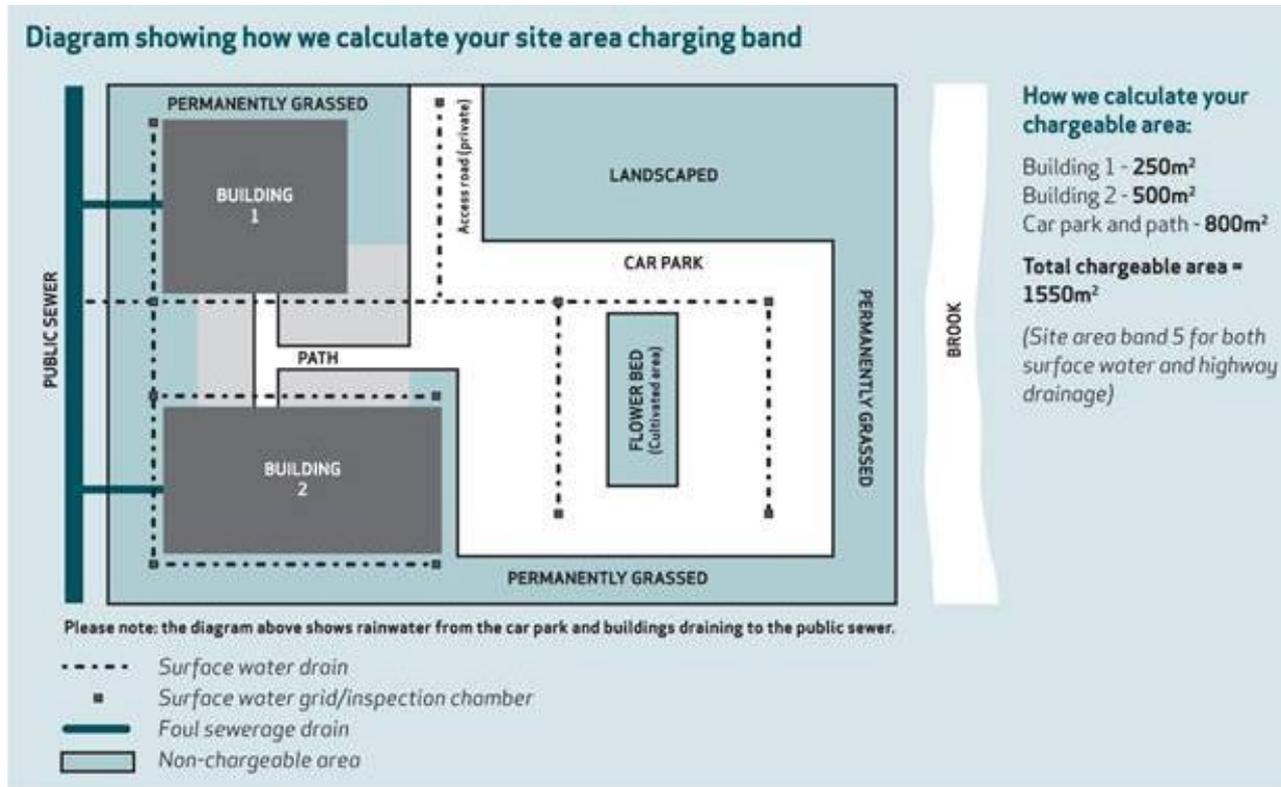
How surface water drainage and highway drainage for non-household customers is charged

United Utilities charges for surface water and highways drainage based on the area of a customer's site, for non-household premises with a water meter.

- Each customer's site is allocated to one of 15 site area size bands, each with a different charge which is based on the size of the band
- For the surface water element (typically 70% of the total site area charges), the **chargeable area** may be reduced if some area does not drain to a public sewer

What is the chargeable area?

UU chargeable area for wholesale charges:



The chargeable area excludes any permanently grassed, cultivated or landscaped areas where no surface water or groundwater drains either directly or indirectly to a public sewer

How can surface water drainage charges be reduced

UU charges for surface water drainage can be reduced if:

- There is no connection to the public sewer for surface water drainage.
- Surface water is discharged to a watercourse and does not enter our public sewer.
- Partial connection – where 10% or more of the site does not drain to a public sewer or a proportion of such drainage is charged as trade effluent.
- Green roofs - a 50% reduction of the chargeable area of the green roof may be applied to premises with a green roof.

SUDs and surface water charging

How might SUDs impact on surface water drainage charges?

- If a SUD is installed at a premise and the SUD is not part of, or connected to, the UU network (i.e. it is owned, operated and maintained by another party), it may be that some or all of the surface water from a premises does not drain to a public sewer
- Areas which do not drain to a public sewer are not included in the chargeable site area for surface water charges, so you may be eligible for a lower charge

