



10,000
Raingardens
for Scotland

Please only use this leaflet as inspiration for your raingarden project, and not as building instructions.

Visit our website www.10kraingardens.scot

Follow us on twitter [@10k_raingardens](https://twitter.com/10k_raingardens)



Central Scotland
Green Network Trust



EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future



MIX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC® C022665

Printed on FSC Mixed Credit stock using vegetable based inks which have been researched and sourced to ensure that the impact on the environment is kept to a minimum.



PLEASE RECYCLE

Get inspired!
**HOUSEHOLD
RAINGARDENS**



10,000
Raingardens
for Scotland

What happens to the water from your home?

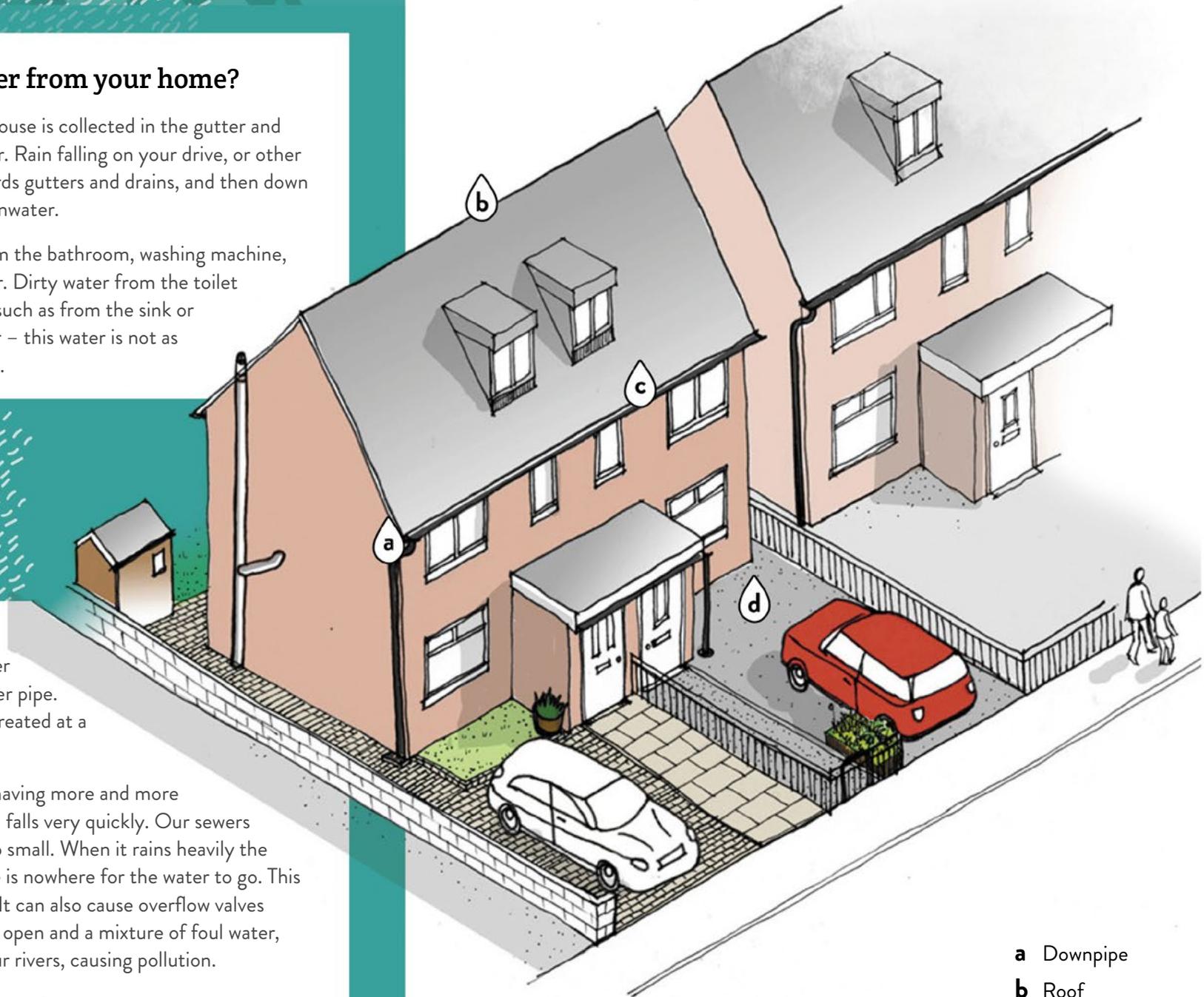
Rain which falls on the roof of your house is collected in the gutter and drainpipes take it down into the sewer. Rain falling on your drive, or other hard areas of your garden flows towards gutters and drains, and then down into the sewer. This water is called rainwater.

Other pipes also take dirty water from the bathroom, washing machine, sinks and kitchen into the same sewer. Dirty water from the toilet is called foul water, the other water (such as from the sink or washing machine) is called grey water – this water is not as dirty as the foul water from the toilet.

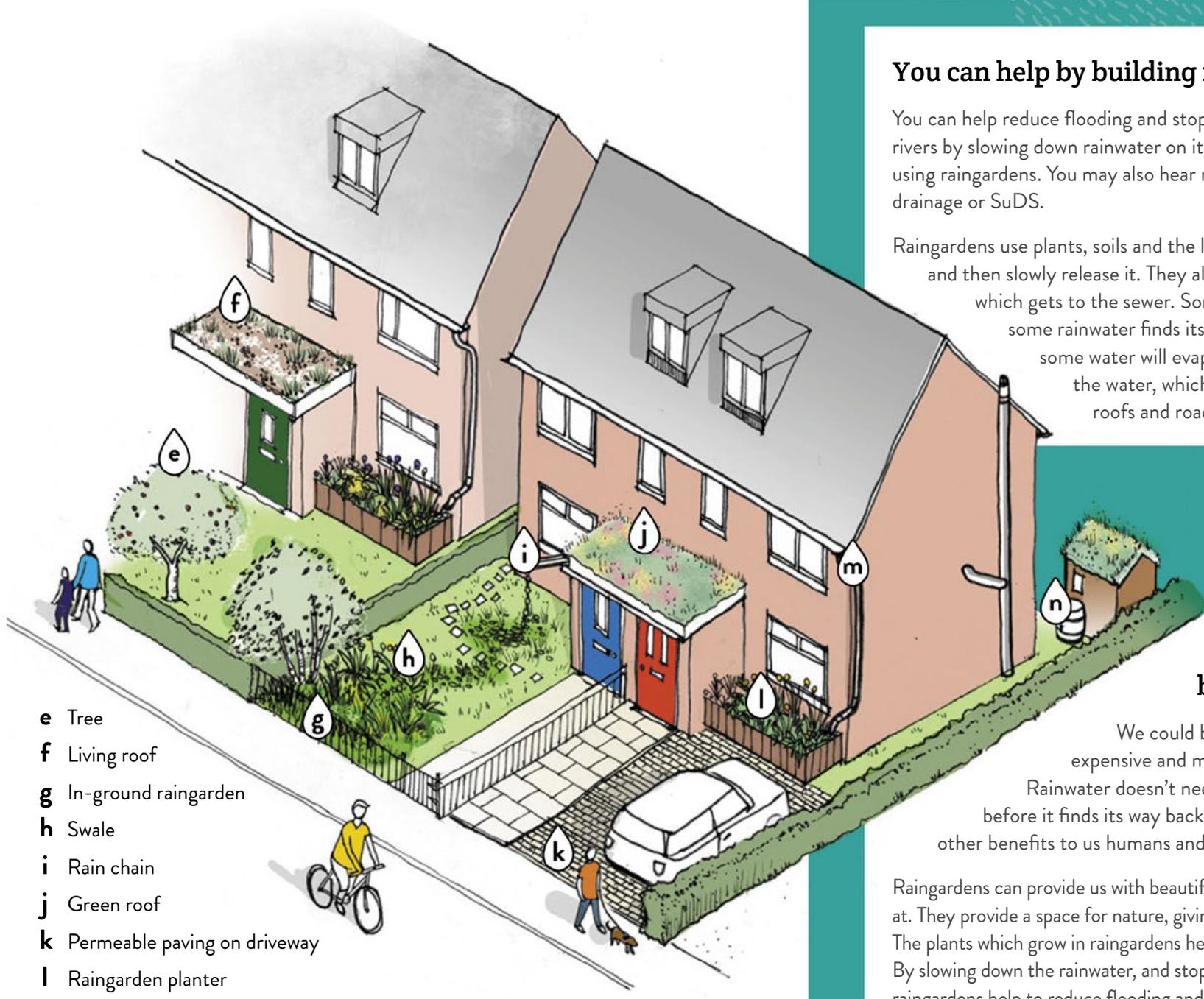
We often have combined sewers which means the rainwater, grey water and foul water all go to the same sewer pipe. They get mixed together and all get treated at a sewage works.

Our climate is changing, and we are having more and more heavy rain showers where a lot of rain falls very quickly. Our sewers were built a long time ago and are too small. When it rains heavily the rainwater fills up the sewer, and there is nowhere for the water to go. This causes flooding as the drains are full. It can also cause overflow valves (called combined sewer overflows) to open and a mixture of foul water, greywater and rainwater to go into our rivers, causing pollution.

But what can you do about it?



- a** Downpipe
- b** Roof
- c** Gutter
- d** Driveway



- e** Tree
- f** Living roof
- g** In-ground raingarden
- h** Swale
- i** Rain chain
- j** Green roof
- k** Permeable paving on driveway
- l** Raingarden planter
- m** Downpipe
- n** Water butt

You can help by building raingardens!

You can help reduce flooding and stop dirty water overflowing into our rivers by slowing down rainwater on its way to the sewer. You can do this using raingardens. You may also hear raingardens being called sustainable drainage or SuDS.

Raingardens use plants, soils and the landscape to hold onto the rainwater and then slowly release it. They also help reduce the amount of water which gets to the sewer. Some water is taken up by the plants, some rainwater finds its way back down into the ground, and some water will evaporate. Raingardens also help clean the water, which may have picked up dirt from the roofs and roads.

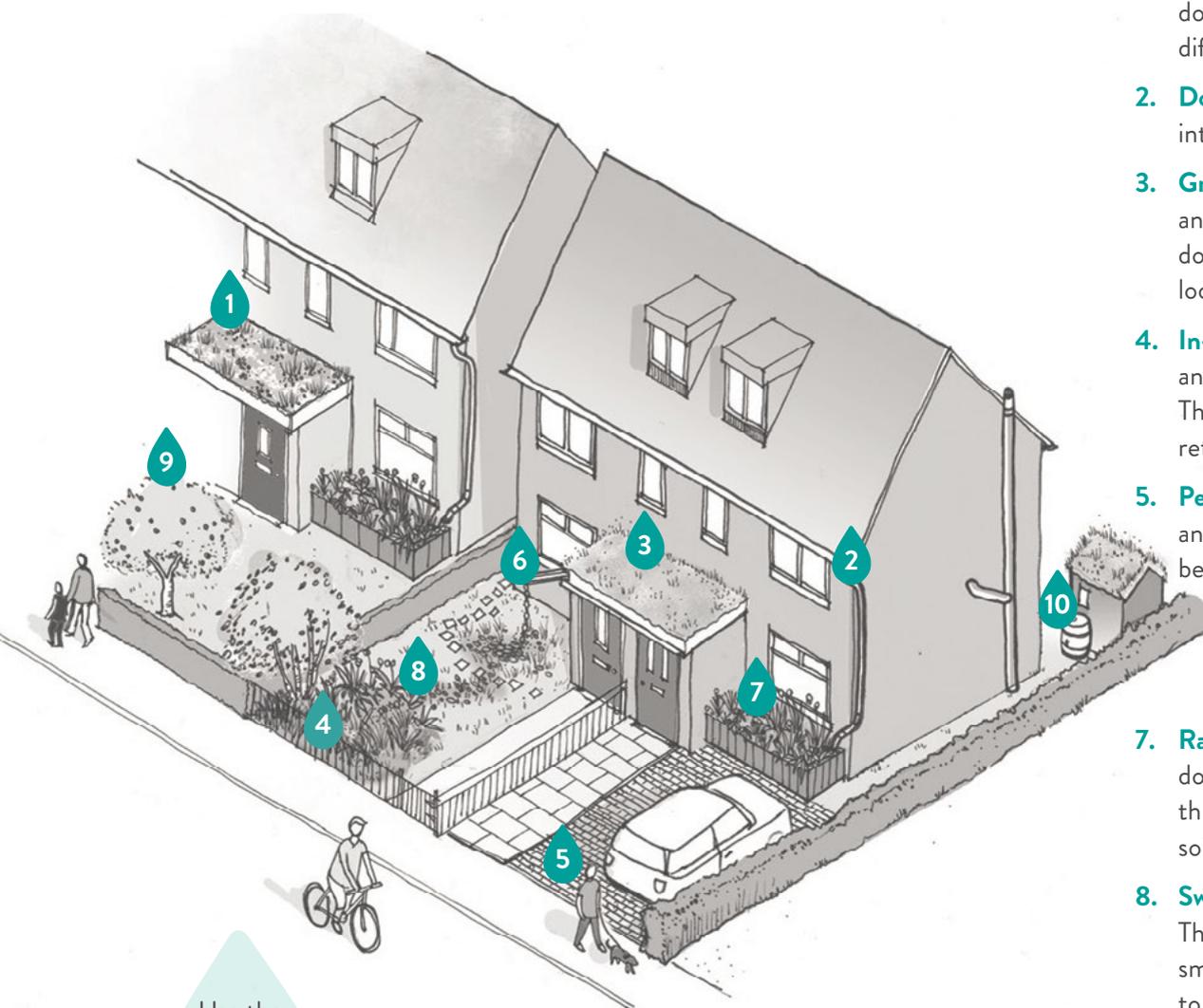
Why not just build bigger sewers?

We could build bigger sewers, but this is expensive and may not be the best solution.

Rainwater doesn't need to be sent to a sewage works before it finds its way back to the river. Raingardens also give other benefits to us humans and to wildlife.

Raingardens can provide us with beautiful places to sit, walk through and look at. They provide a space for nature, giving insects and birds a home and food. The plants which grow in raingardens help improve air quality and water quality. By slowing down the rainwater, and stopping it getting to the sewers so quickly, raingardens help to reduce flooding and protect our rivers.

Raingarden glossary



Use the glossary to find out more about these raingarden features

- 1. Living roof** – a bit like a raingarden in the sky! Similar to a green roof, living roofs may have materials such as crushed brick or poor soils spread on them. Plants that like these conditions are planted or allowed to blow in. They may have piles of stones or logs for insects to live under. The materials and plants slow the water down and provide habitat and space for nature. A **green roof** is similar but uses different soils.
- 2. Downpipe** – the pipe which takes the rainwater off the roof from the gutters and into the drain.
- 3. Green roof** – planting on top of a roof, like a raingarden in the sky! The plants and material they are growing in slow the water down so that it doesn't go rushing down the drainpipe. Plants are chosen carefully so they don't need too much looking after. A **living roof** is similar but uses different soil material.
- 4. In-ground raingarden** – a shallow depression (a dip) which can hold rainwater, and then let it sink back into the ground, or overflow into another raingarden. These can be planted with carefully chosen plants. These are also called 'bio-retention' areas.
- 5. Permeable paving** – paving which lets water through, usually through small gaps, and into a layer underneath it. Good for holding water, but this paving has fewer benefits for humans and wildlife.
- 6. Rain chain** – a decorative chain sometimes used instead of a drainpipe as a special feature. Watching the rainwater run down the chain and hearing the noise that it makes can be engaging!
- 7. Raingarden planter** – a planter which catches rainwater coming from the downpipe. The water flows through the plants and soil in the planter, then down through different layers of gravel, before coming out of the planter. Free draining soil is used so the plants don't get too soggy.
- 8. Swale** – a wide, shallow ditch, planted with plants, which collects rainwater runoff. The water flows down the swale and out at the lower end. Sometimes swales have small dams in them which help slow the water. Sometimes the dams are designed to be walked across, and you may also see small bridges across swales.
- 9. Trees** – these are an important part of green infrastructure and also intercept rainfall.
- 10. Water butt** – a big container which holds and stores the rainwater coming down your drainpipe. This water can be used for things like watering the garden or washing your car. These can also be called a rain barrel.