

Lightweight drainage covers

(December 2008) (First issue)



Question

Should lightweight covers to drainage systems be secured by screws to deter children from lifting them?

Considerations

- Covers, which can be easily lifted, pose a risk to children falling in or allow them to throw objects into the drains, which may cause blockages and a health hazard.
- Approved Document H (England & Wales) says that small lightweight access covers should be secured (for example by screws) to deter unauthorised access (for example by children).

Answer

Small lightweight access covers to private drains should be:

- 1 too heavy for children to lift, or
- 2 secured by screws, or
- 3 of a design which requires the use of a key to lift the cover from the frame.

In all cases the frame should be securely fixed to the chamber and/or bedded in mortar to avoid it being lifted with the cover.