

**Water, Water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink**

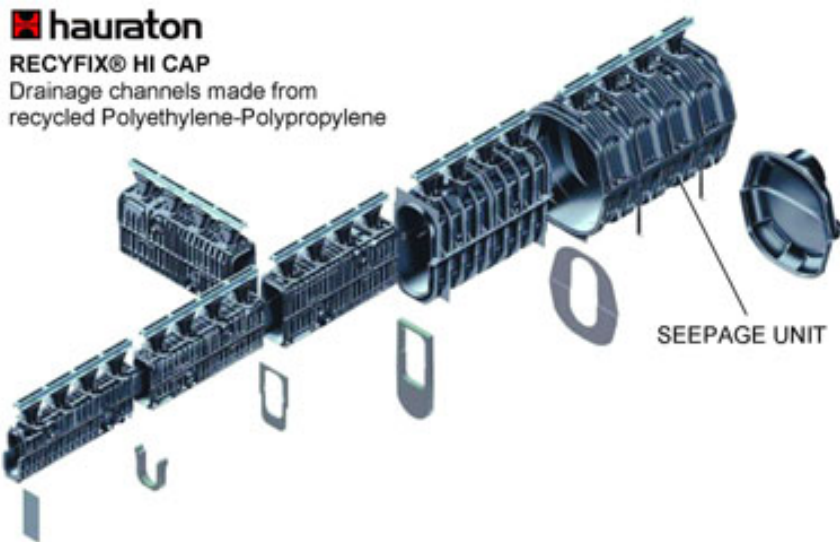
The oft quoted “Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink” - Coleridge (1772-1834) could be describing an experience we may all face in future years! With the mounting demands for building more homes and associated infrastructure, open land is being paved over at an ever increasing rate. Many planning authorities have recognised the problem has reached a critical stage; an area the size of a hundred football pitches is being built over every day in England alone. Coupled with more frequent torrential downpours caused by global warming, it is no wonder our Victorian underground drainage network is being overwhelmed in many parts of the country. Insurance companies realise flash flooding has accounted for a significant amount of damage in recent years.

Another consequence of rapid run-off means rainwater does not have time to seep down through the sub-soil. This results in the depletion of water reaching underground aquifers, a major source for water companies especially in the South East. So, in many parts of the country it is possible to have flooding and then, a shortage of water within a few months!

In Southern England within the next seven years, the Government will allow water companies to compulsorily install water meters in millions of homes in areas where there are regular water shortages. These areas will include the Thames Valley down to Dover, London and the Home Counties. The Government also intends all homes in the rest of the country be fitted with meters by 2030. In addition, if developers or homeowners wish to pave over large areas then they will need specific planning permission for the work which will have to include a sustainable drainage system that will control and allow rainwater to seep into the earth.

In order to tackle the dual problems of flash flooding and water shortage, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) including “Green” roofs will have to be seriously considered by Planners and Civil Engineers alike. Last year the Government’s Planning Policy Statement 25 recommended the use of appropriate methods to control rainwater runoff.

SUDS do pose their own problems; they must be carefully designed and sized to ensure proper control of surface water. To help specifiers optimise their surface water drainage schemes, a Dunstable based company Hauraton Limited now provides a free hydraulics design service and technical support for their surface water drainage products which include drainage systems that store and then slowly release water into the sub-soil and channels specially designed for Green roofs.



Hauraton RECYFIX®HICAP sustainable drainage system

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