

Tips to help prevent sanitary sewer backups

- Clear water sources from roof runoff, foundation drains, area drains, sump pumps, and other storm water or ground water sources should not be connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Clear water should be discharged over your lawn or connected directly to an approved storm sewer. Clear water takes up capacity in the sanitary sewer, making your property more susceptible to sewer backups.
- Do not pour cooking grease or oils down the drain. Oils and grease clog the sewer and cause backups. Pour grease into a disposable container and freeze it until it sets. Then it easily can be thrown away.
- Know where your sewer lateral is connected in your yard. Your sewer lateral is a pipe that connects your home to the City's sanitary sewer. It is the responsibility of each property owner to maintain his/her own lateral. Your lateral should be cleared and inspected regularly. If you are unsure of the location of your lateral, please have your plumber designate the exact location of it during the next service call to your home.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs near your sewer lateral. Roots can penetrate sewer pipes through cracks or pipe junctions and clog the sewer.
- If you consistently experience sanitary sewer backups, contact the City's Department of Public Works (788-4977, ext. 6) or a qualified plumber about investigating and potentially replacing your sewer lateral.