

How Do I Protect My Home's Sewer Service Lateral?

Sewer service laterals are the pipes that carry wastewater from your home into the City's sanitary sewer mains. Property owners are responsible for their lateral for its entire length, until it enters the main. If your property has a **completely new lateral** with a clean out, is located in the public right of way, **and** was accepted by the City's Public Utilities Department, then you are only responsible to the point of the clean out (vertical access pipe to the lateral; usually visible in the yard).

1. Never pour grease or oil down your drain. This is a prime cause of clogged pipes and sewer overflows
2. Never flush an item that can't break apart in water. These items often cause blockages in the sewer main. Blockages can cause sewage to back up into homes or overflow from a manhole. Please dispose of all non-soluble items in your trash.
3. Many City homes are older and still have their original sewer lateral. Repeated sewage backups may be an indication that your lateral has deteriorated or collapsed. It may be necessary for you to replace it. Laterals in very bad condition that are allowed to stay in use may be releasing raw sewage into the ground around your home.
4. If you have a clean out, keep the cover in good condition. A missing or broken cover allows rainwater to flow freely into the sewer system, which may overload it.