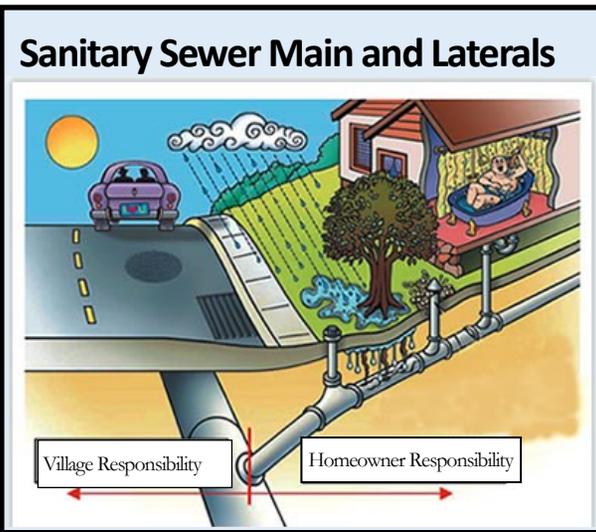


Sanitary Sewer



What is a sanitary sewer lateral? A sanitary sewer lateral is a pipe that connects a home or commercial building to the sewer main system. The private lateral portion (the section between the sewer main and the structure), is owned and maintained by the property owner. It is private property and considered part of the house.



What do they do? The sewer laterals are integral parts of the sanitary sewer system. They carry away the wastewaters of bathrooms, showers, laundry rooms, and kitchens from your home and business to the sanitary sewer main treatment before returning clean water to the environment.

How do I locate my laterals? Locating laterals can sometimes be difficult depending on the pipe material. A plumber or in some cases, Village utility crews can help.

Who is responsible for the maintenance? The private lateral is considered part of the home, therefore, just as the homeowner repairs the roof or windows, the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the lateral is the responsibility of the homeowner. Regular maintenance and repair is vital to ensuring the longevity of your lateral. Most can be cleaned out by accessing the sanitary sewer cleanout.



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**SANITARY
SEWER
LATERALS**

**What Homeowners
and Renters Need
to Know**

Village of Waterford Water & Sewer Utilities

Sanitary Sewer Laterals

Frequently Asked Questions

Where does the homeowner's responsibility end?

The homeowner's responsibility ends where the lateral joins the sewer main line.

What is a sanitary sewer cleanout? A sewer cleanout is a point of access where the sewer lateral can be serviced. It is usually 4 inches in diameter and has a tight-fitting steel or plastic cap. If you are unsuccessful in locating one, you either do not have one or it may be buried under dirt or concrete. A plumber can assist you in locating it.

How do I know if I have a lateral problem? Signs that laterals may require attention include frequently clogged drains, an odor of sewage, and basement back-ups usually following rainfall or during periods of high water usage.

Why have I had basement backups? What should I do?

Sanitary sewer basement backups can be caused by a variety of factors. You may have noticed that basement backups usually occur during heavy rain storms. This is due to the fact that sanitary systems are inundated by an overabundance of storm water or 'grey' water (household wastewater-excluding wastewater from toilets). Contact the Village Water & Sewer Utilities and follow the prompts for emergencies. You may be directed to contact a plumber once the problem is diagnosed.

How do I determine the cause of the problem?

The best way to assess the condition of a lateral is by closed circuit television video (CCTV) examination.

What can go wrong with laterals?

They become blocked by roots...



They fill and clog with grease...



They crack, break and fill with storm water...



Can the Village make a property owner repair laterals?

The Village can direct a property owner to make repairs to damaged laterals at any time, however, when road

construction projects are planned, all sewer mains and laterals are assessed so repairs can be made along with construction. If repairs are needed to laterals, homeowners are notified and have the option of hiring their own contractor or having repairs made by the Village contractor. The benefit is that the cost is usually cheaper and the homeowner will not be responsible for restoration following the lateral construction. Property owners will be special assessed for the lateral repairs.

What are some strategies for managing sewer laterals?

Property owners are encouraged to inspect their private lateral as property changes hands and then at least every 5-10 years. A contractor should be hired to correct any problems discovered.

Do I need a permit for sewer lateral repairs?

Yes. A building sewer permit is required. Contact the building inspector for details.

Are there rules governing installation or repairs?

Are there restrictions on the materials to be used? Yes, materials and methods of construction must conform to the Wisconsin Administrative Code, State Department of Natural Resources, Chapter 98, Building, Plumbing, Electrical and Mechanical Codes, Village of Waterford Municipal Code 223-22, and applicable rules and regulations of the sewerage district.

Does work on sewer laterals need to be inspected?

Yes, the permit fee includes the cost of one inspection by either the approving authority or the Village. Any additional inspections are at the cost of the owner.

Do laterals affect the sewer system overall?

Yes, a large portion of rainwater and groundwater (inflow and infiltration) entering the system enters through faulty laterals.

Do problems with sewer laterals affect my water supply or quality?

Yes, leaking sanitary sewer laterals can contaminate groundwater.

Why are defective laterals a problem? Broken laterals can allow tree roots or debris into the pipe which may cause blockages, building backups or overflows in the envi-

ronment. Leaking pipes can also allow wastewater to reach groundwater, which may contribute to water pollution.

Why is it important to keep rainwater from entering sanitary laterals?

Defects and prohibited connections to private sanitary laterals allow rainwater to enter the sewers. This extra water costs more to treat and it may overload the public sewer system causing overflows and backups. Improper connections include roof downspouts, groundwater sump pumps, foundation drains, and drains from window wells, driveways, etc.

How can I maintain my private sewer lateral and prevent problems?

Protect your property and the environment by following these tips:

-  Maintain and repair your private sewer lateral to meet regulations and area plumbing codes.
-  Remove any prohibited storm sewer connections.
-  Clear roots, grease, debris, and other blockages in the lateral all the way to the connection with the sewer main.
-  Know where your cleanout is for quick access to clear blockages or stop back-ups.
-  Keep your cleanout cap on and in good shape.
-  This keeps out rain and debris that can cause blockages, back-ups, or overflows.
-  Contact the Village if you are having your lateral cleaned. In some cases, obstructions can be pushed out into the sewer main causing a blockage in the main line. The Village can then inspect and clean the main if necessary.
-  If you are experiencing a sewer back up, you should contact the Village first, before you call a plumber. This could save you money if the problem is out in the main.
-  All property owners and renters should consider purchasing sewer backup and water damage insurance coverage.