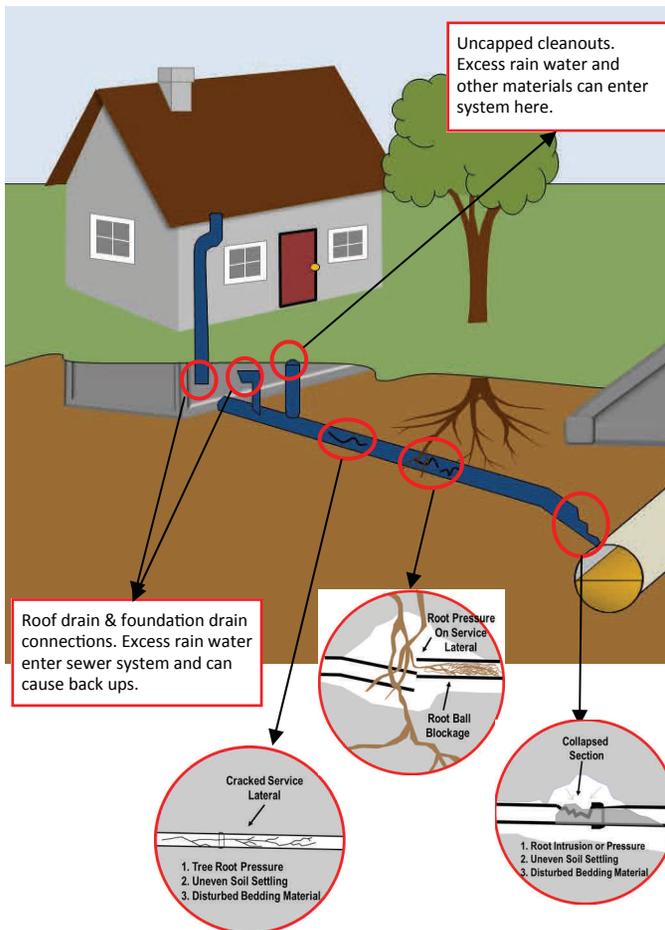


Symptoms of sewer problems

I should look for:

- ◆ Wastewater backups inside the building
- ◆ Slow draining sinks and toilets
- ◆ Water leaking from cleanouts and outside drains
- ◆ Unusual odors or sewage smells in or around the property

Possible Sources of Sewer Problems



Do you have basement flooding issues during rain storms?

The Stormwater Flood Control Program (SFCP) can help. SFCP provides funding for single family, owner-occupied homes that have experienced basement flooding within the City of Superior. It is designed to reduce the amount of clear rainwater and snowmelt entering the sanitary sewer system.

Stormwater Flood Control Program can help by

- ◆ Removing house trap
- ◆ Sewer cleaning & inspections
- ◆ Separation of footing drains from sewer
- ◆ Installation of sump pumps and backwater valves

For more information, please visit www.ci.superior.wi.us/sfcp or contact:
Curt Sander-Berg, Engineering Technician
Program Manager and Inspector
(715) 394-0392, ext. 1002
sander-bergc@ci.superior.wi.us

On average, a home with a roof drain and sump pit connected to the sanitary sewer system can add 1,000 gallons per hour to the wastewater flow, which is the normal flow from more than 60 homes.

Remember to avoid contact with wastewater due to the risk of exposure to disease-causing organisms.

For more information, contact us at
City of Superior
Environmental Services Division
51 E 1st Street
Superior, WI 54880
715-394-0392
www.ci.superior.wi.us/esd



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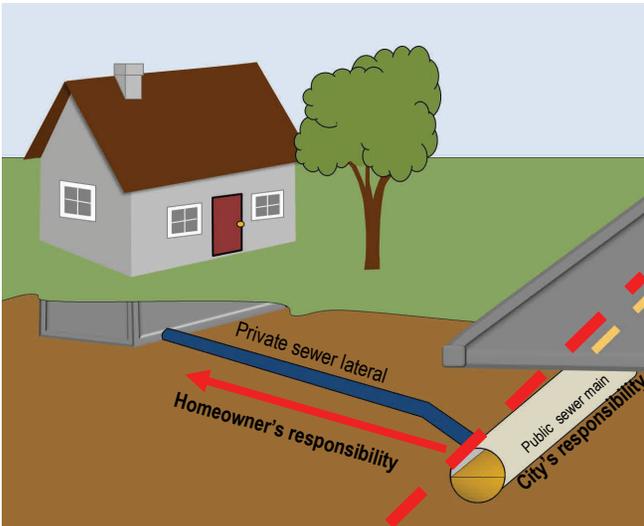
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Experiencing sewer issues. . . Now what?

The first step to fixing a sewer issue is to determine where the issue is occurring. Issues can occur with the private sewer lateral or on the public sewer main.

The homeowner is responsible for issues with the private sewer lateral. Your sewer lateral is the line connecting your home to the public sewer main, including the connection to the main. If your sewer backs up only when a faucet is running or toilet is flushed, then the issue may be with your private sewer lateral. If problems exist here, then call a licensed plumber or sewer service.

The City of Superior addresses issues with the public sewer main. The public sewer main is typically in alleyways, in streets, or in utility easements along back property lines. If your sewer backs up when faucets are not running or toilets flushed, then the issue may be with the City's public sewer main. If you believe there is an issue with the public sewer main, or if you are unsure of the source of the issue, please call the City of Superior Environmental Services Division at (715) 394-0392. Crews are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to homeowner concerns.



Toilets are meant for one activity. When the wrong thing is flushed, costly backups may result.

What not to flush:

- ◆ Hair
- ◆ Cotton Swabs
- ◆ Cigarette butts
- ◆ Food wrappers
- ◆ Cleaning sponges
- ◆ Baby wipes and diapers
- ◆ Rubber items such as latex gloves

Products marketed as “flushable” are becoming an increasing problem as they are not designed to break down immediately. They can clump up and jam your sewer lateral.

Private sewer laterals are typically only 4-6 inches in diameter. They are intended for the passage of water and soluble waste. Materials that do not immediately break down (such as toys, hair, and even “flushable” wipes) can easily become entangled and cause a blockage in the line. So don't be fooled by those TV commercials on really powerful toilets. Just because it goes down, doesn't mean it'll stay down.

What can I do to prevent sewer problems

Dos:

- ✓ **Do** collect fats, oils, and grease in separate, heat-resistant container when cooking. Hot grease quickly cools into solid blockages in pipes.
- ✓ **Do** properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Many chemicals and medicines entering the waste system may not be removed.
- ✓ **Do** check your sewer lateral every 2-5 years by a licensed sewer service.
- ✓ **Do** use sink and shower drain strainers.
- ✓ **Do** check for leaky faucets and water pipes.



Don'ts:

- ✗ **Don't** use the toilet as a wastebasket. Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed.
- ✗ **Don't** pour cooking grease and oils down the sink. It will quickly harden and clog up the drain.
- ✗ **Don't** use the garbage disposal with food containing fats, oils, and grease.
- ✗ **Don't** connect gutters and foundation drains to sanitary sewer system. The increase in flow may overload the system and cause backups.
- ✗ **Don't** plant trees and shrubs near sewer lines. Roots can grow into pipes and cause severe damage.