
What Can Residents Do To Prevent Sewer Backups?

✓ **U**se household chemicals until chemical container is completely empty. Recycle empty container appropriately.

✗ **D**o not flush household chemicals down the toilet or pour down the drain.

Household chemicals can kill “good” bacteria used for sewage treatment.

✓ **C**hoose and plant trees carefully.

✗ **D**o not plant trees with shallow, spreading root systems near your lateral.

Tree roots seek water sources, such as cracked sewer lines. Once the roots have penetrated the line, they can create a dense mat and trap materials.

Resident Responsibilities

Residents are responsible for the care and maintenance of the lateral line up to its connection with the municipal sewer main.

Who do Residents Contact if a Sewer Backup Occurs?

Residents should contact the wastewater plant at 978-671-0956 immediately if a backup occurs.

For other Department of Public Works Questions on:

Drinking Water: 978-671-0957

Water / Sewer bills: 978-671-0954

Trash / Recyclables: 978-436-9178

Snow removal / Road issues: 978-671-0951

DPW administration: 978-671-0313



Preventing Sewer Backups In Your Home

A Guide for Billerica Residents

Billerica Wastewater Treatment Plant
70 Letchworth Avenue
Billerica, MA 01862
(978) 671-0956

How Does the Sewer System Work?

How Do Sewer Backups Occur?

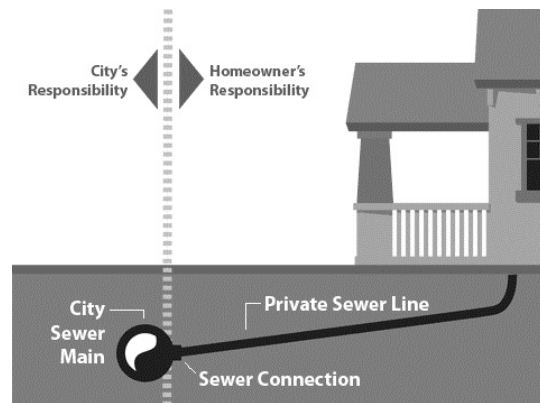
During Periods of heavy rain, the volume of wastewater that flows to a sewage treatment plant can exceed the capacity of the pipes to the plant.

Wastewater can also back up into your home when there is a blockage in your lateral (private) or public sewer line.

Sewage contains bacteria, viruses and other organisms that can cause illness.

This brochure will provide you with information regarding sanitary sewer systems and what you can do as a resident to prevent sewer backups in your home.

Homes connected to the municipal sewer system contain a service lateral line, or private sewer line, that connects to the municipal sewer main.



Waste travels from your home's plumbing system through the lateral to the municipal sewer main. Waste then travels through the municipal sewer lines to a wastewater treatment facility where the waste is properly managed.

What Can Residents Do To Prevent Sewer Backups?

- ✓ **P**our grease, fats and oils into a heat-resistant container and dispose of it in the garbage (after it cools).
- ✗ **D**o not pour grease down the drain.
- ✓ **D**ispose of paper products and household trash with solid waste (trash).
- ✗ **D**o not flush diapers down your toilet.
- ✓ **D**ispose of food scraps in the garbage with solid waste.
- ✗ **D**o not use the toilet as a wastebasket.

These items can block sewer lines resulting in a backup into your home.
