



It's sometimes painted green. If you can't find one, look around your property line for something marked "sewer." This may look like a smaller manhole. This is where your curb cleanout is located.

A cleanout may be close to your home and not at the property line.



New homes and remodeled homes may have two cleanouts. You can draw a line between your cleanouts see where your lateral is between your house and curb cleanouts. This is your upper lateral. Why is that important? You don't want to plant a tree right over it or dig very deep over your lateral.

Remodeled home with two cleanouts

Where's the main?

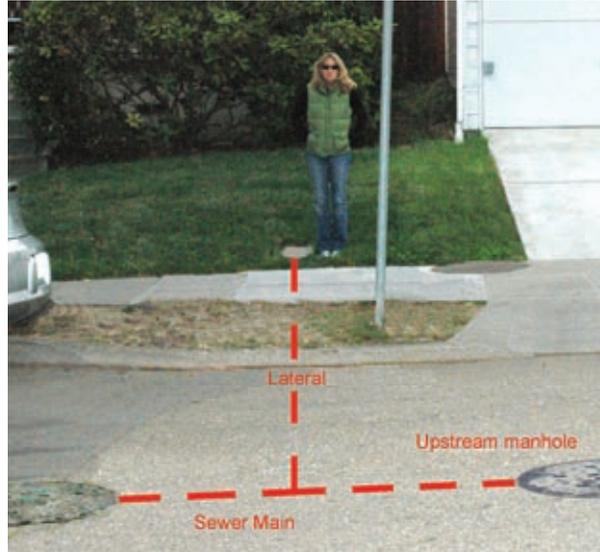
2 Standing on your curb, look out into the street and find the nearest upstream manhole in front of your house.



Connect it to the next nearest manhole so that the dotted line passes in front of your house. The main is located under the street at that dotted line.

Where does my lateral join the main?

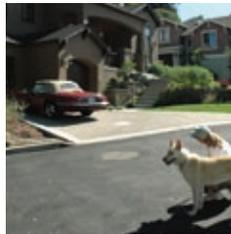
3 You can connect the dots between curb cleanout and the dotted line between manholes in the street. Your lower lateral is not going to connect where the manhole is, but about 5-10 yards straight out from your curb cleanout where it hits the dotted line where the main line passes your property between the manholes.



Your home's upper lateral runs between the two cleanouts. Your lower lateral runs from the curb cleanout to where the main runs under the street.

How do I know if my house is at risk?

4 Now that you have located where your lateral joins your sewer main, locate the nearest upstream manhole in the street.



Stand on the manhole cover or stand at your house. Does your lowest elevation or basement appear to be at least 1 foot above the manhole? Compare it to the elevation of the manhole. Remember, your lowest drain may be in your garage or basement where you have plumbing.

▲ If the lowest elevation does not appear to be equal to or at least 1 foot above the manhole, you may be at risk.



Cleanout with BPD

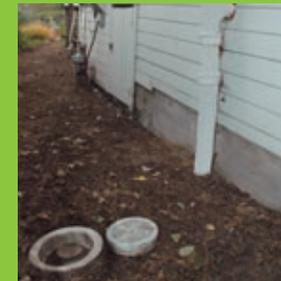
People who live in hilly areas, especially those on the downside of the street, are most at risk.

If you are unsure, put on a Backflow Prevention Device BPD anyway per your local requirements.

Sewer Smart Tips



If you live in a flat area – you may have difficulty figuring out which direction the sewer flows. You can ask your plumber or call your sewer or sanitation district, located in the phone book under Government listings for wastewater utility services.



If your home was built or remodeled after 1962, most local building codes require that your sewer system has a cleanout and a Backflow Prevention Device (also called a sewer relief device).