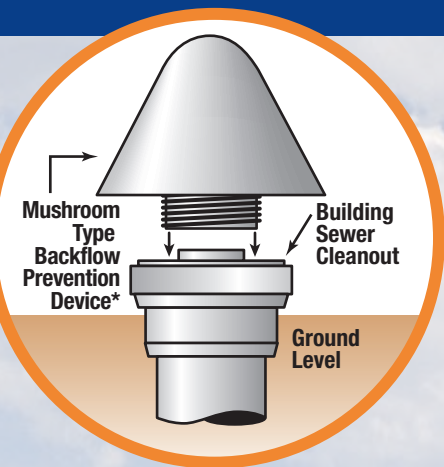
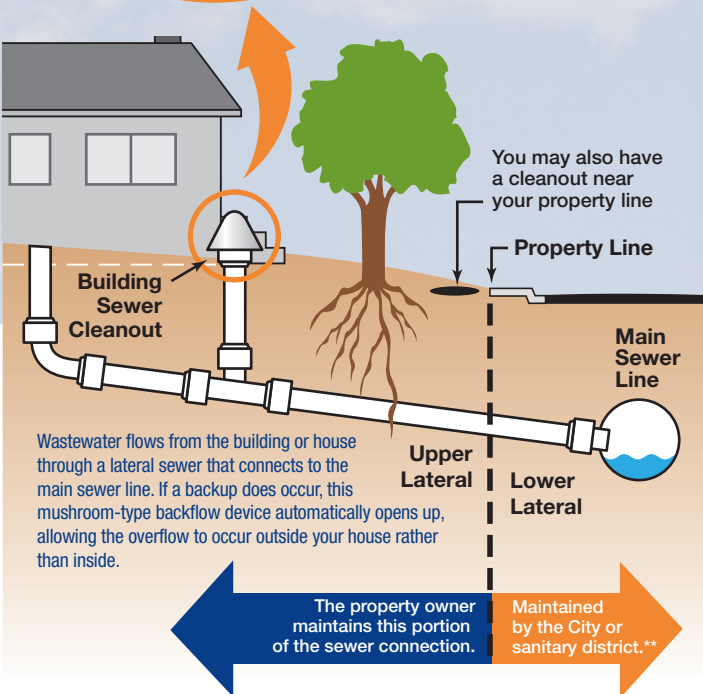


Be Sewer Smart!

This Rainy Season



A Backflow Prevention Device (BPD) can save you from the very unpleasant and costly experience of a sewage backup into your home.

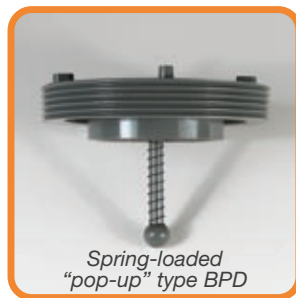


* There are other varieties of devices. Visit www.sewersmart.org.
 ** Note that the responsibilities may vary in your community. Be sure to check with your local City or sanitary district.

Protect Your Home from Sewage Backflows

Wherever a sewer system exists, so does the potential for backflows

Sewer main lines can become blocked due to roots, grease buildup or debris in the pipes. When this occurs, wastewater is stopped by the blockage and then backs up toward the first possible outlet – usually a manhole. However, sometimes the outlet is a fixture or drain inside a home or business. Many backflows are relatively small and can be cleaned up quickly. Left unattended, however, they can result in significant property damage.



When a wastewater backflow occurs, contact your City's Public Works Department or local sanitary district as soon as possible. Their crews locate the blockage and determine if it is in the public portion of the sewer; if it is, the crew removes the blockage.

Property owners are responsible for internal plumbing and lateral pipes

If a backup occurs within private internal plumbing or in the lateral pipe that connects private property to the public sewer, this is the property owner's responsibility. You should contact a licensed plumbing contractor to make repairs. A permit is usually required for sewer work outside of a building. **Be sure to check with your City or local sanitary district regarding any special requirements.**

Thanks for being Sewer Smart!

Follow our step-by-step guide and visit our website at www.sewersmart.org. If you think your home may be at risk of a sewer backup, protect your home and install a Backflow Prevention Device (BPD). You'll find samples of BPDs on our website.

For more information as to whether or not your house is at risk of a backup, visit www.sewersmart.org.

Thanks for being Sewer Smart!



Be Sewer Smart!

Prevent Backups This Rainy Season



Protect your home

Here's how to determine if you are at risk of a sewer backup.

Your home is at risk if, at its lowest level, your home is not at least one foot above the nearest upstream manhole of the sewer main. In some homes, the garage may have a floor drain that also must be assessed in relation to the nearest upstream manhole.



In this photo, the gray house is at risk. The pink house may be at risk if it has a floor drain in the garage. Most likely, the house on the left is not at risk.

This step-by-step property walk-through guide will help you find your sewer lateral, the sewer main and next upstream manhole to help you determine if you are at risk.

Where's my lateral?

- 1 First of all go to the curb and look for an "s" stamped into the concrete.

