

Important Information for Newburgh Sewer Customers

Prevent Sewage Backups

Every customer needs to be aware of certain conditions within a home or business which may expose sewer lines to a sewage backup. These conditions can be addressed by the customer.

A backup may occur if customers dispose grease down the sink. The grease then gathers in the sewer main line, eventually causing a stoppage. This results in sewage backing up the main line. The Town cannot anticipate where a grease clog will occur. Once the problem has been identified, personnel are dispatched to clean the line. Introduction of grease into the sanitary sewer system is prohibited by Town Ordinance and a substantial fine may be levied.

If a drain or plumbing fixture within a home or business is lower than the nearest upstream manhole of the sewer, the structure is at risk for a backup. Basement drains or commodes, drains in rooms in walkout basements or the lower level of a tri-level home would be examples of at risk conditions. However, these are not the only at risk types of structures. If a building has such a drain or fixture and a clog occurs, the sewage will travel up the pipes into the structure before it can reach the top of the upstream manhole and discharge. This may happen because the drain or fixture is lower than the manhole.

There are devices that can be placed on or in the line to give protection against a backup. A licensed professional can advise on such devices and their proper installation and maintenance. It is the responsibility of the property owner to decide the necessity of sewage backup protection and the need for additional homeowner insurance coverage. Generally, the Town is not responsible for damage caused when sewage backs up into a home or business.

If you have any questions or need emergency assistance, please call (812) 853-7496.