

## Did You Experience a Sewer Backup?

A sewer back up can be a traumatic event. Homes that suffer a sewer back-up result in thousands of dollars in damages, the destruction of personal property, and insurance claims are required to be filed.

## What Causes Sewer Lateral Backups?

1. A sewer backup occurs due to severe rainfalls. The sewer pipe in the street fills up, and then over flows into your sewer lateral pipe, which will flood into your basement.
2. Another case of sewer backup can occur in your building sewer lateral by plugged pipes due to tree roots that have grown through the joints of the pipe, grease build-up, blockages and debris.

## CAN BACKUPS BE AVOIDED?

A backup occurring in the sewer lateral pipe may cause your basement to flood. A number of preventative measures to basement floodings are available such as

- disconnecting your foundation weeping tile from your home's sewer lateral pipe
- redirecting your downspouts away from the foundation wall
- installing a backwater valve
- installing a sump pump
- regrading your property
- having your sewer lateral pipe relined.

## Type of problems that may occur in your sewer lateral pipe:

**Tree Roots** – Open joints in your sewer lateral pipe can contribute to plugged pipes.

**Plugged Internal Plumbing** – Signs of internal drainage problems are toilets flushing poorly, plugged sinks, bathtubs and floor drains. Many of these problems can be fixed by calling your private local plumber.

**Plugged Service** – Over-sized objects that are entering your sewer lateral may be causing water to backup through the floor drain. The most common types of objects includes rags, kitchen towels, hair, underwear, grease buildup and children's toys.

**Sagging** – Over time, failure in the pipe bedding at the bottom of the trench causes pipes to sag. When this occurs, it causes a section of the pipe to drop below the proper grade. Water particles and suspended solids get trapped in the sagged area which eventually leads to build up and blockages in the pipe.

**Broken or Collapsed Pipe** – When a section of pipe collapses or becomes broken, backfill material will make its way into the pipe which causes plugging and backups.

## Sewer Backup Problems?



For Information

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# 4 WAYS TO REDUCE SEWER BACKUPS

## DISCONNECT OR REDIRECT YOUR DOWNSPOUTS FROM SEWER SYSTEM

Downspouts that are connected from the eavestrough to the sewer pipe should be disconnected at the ground level and re-directed onto the surface. Redirecting the discharge from the downspout away from the building foundation by adding an elbow to the downspout with a splash pad to catch the water runoff can be an easy fix to basement flooding.



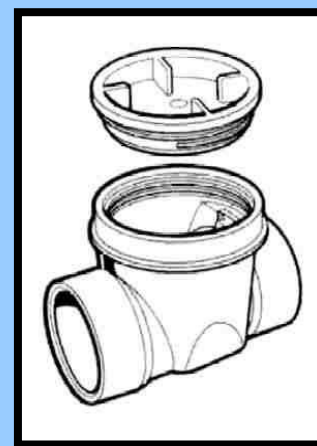
## WEeping TILE DISCONNECTION

Weeping tile is used to drain the surrounding water from around the basement foundation. Disconnecting the weeping tile from your sewer lateral pipe is a solution to basement sewer back-ups. Benefits of disconnecting the weeping tile are to reduce the risk of basement flooding, reduce the cost of treating storm water in the sewage treatment plant, improving the environment and reducing the cost of operating the sanitary sewer system.



## BACKFLOW PREVENTOR

A backflow preventor is installed in the sanitary sewer lateral pipe. In cases where the City sewer backs up and the flow becomes reverse (back into your home), the valve will remain closed and not allow the sanitary sewage to back up into your basement.



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## HAVE PROPER LOT DRAINAGE

If the land around your foundation wall is low or slopes towards your house, you have a serious problem. In rainfall situations, the water will flow towards your house, down to your weeping tile and around your basement foundation. This may overload your foundation drainage system causing basement flooding. The land around your property settles over time so in this case, you'll want to fill in and re-grade your lot so the water drains away from the foundation wall.

