

Sanitary Sewer Issues

When it comes to sanitary sewer systems, it's important that we understand several key points to ensure proper use, maintenance, and awareness of potential issues.

1. Proper Use

Dispose of Waste Properly: Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down the toilet. Avoid flushing items like wipes (even those labeled as flushable), paper towels, hygiene products, and medications, as these can cause blockages.

Avoid Pouring Grease: Do not pour cooking grease, oils, or fats down the sink. These can solidify and cause clogs in the sewer lines.

Dispose of Chemicals Properly: Do not flush or pour household chemicals, paints, or pharmaceuticals down the drain. Use designated disposal sites for these items.

2. Maintenance

Routine Checks: Regularly check for any signs of leaks or slow drainage in your home's plumbing. Early detection can prevent more serious issues.

Clean Drains: Use drain guards to catch hair and other debris to prevent clogs. Clean drains regularly but avoid using chemical drain cleaners as they can damage pipes.

3. Emergency Awareness

Report Issues: If you experience sewage backups or overflows, contact the municipality immediately. Don't attempt to fix major problems yourself.

Know the Signs: Be aware of signs of sewer problems, such as unusually slow drains, unpleasant odors, or gurgling sounds from toilets and drains.

4. Environmental Concerns

Protect Waterways: Avoid letting pollutants enter the sewer system as they can end up in local water bodies, affecting aquatic life and water quality.

Respect Overflow Alerts: If notified of a sewer system overload or bypass event, follow all safety guidelines provided. Avoid contact with affected water and be cautious of potential contamination.

5. System Components

Understand the System: Familiarize yourself with how the sanitary sewer system works, including where your sewer lines are and the general route they take.

Access Points: Know the location of sewer cleanouts on your property. These are critical access points for maintenance and can be helpful to maintenance crews in the event of a blockage.

6. Regulations and Compliance

Follow Municipal By-Laws: Be aware of and comply with regulations regarding sewer use and maintenance. Violations can result in fines or other penalties.

8. Emergency Contact Information

Have Contacts Ready: Keep contact information for local sewer maintenance and emergency services readily available. This includes phone numbers for reporting issues and accessing repair services.

By understanding and following these guidelines, we can help maintain a functional and effective sanitary sewer system, minimizing disruptions and protecting both their property and the environment.