

The Flow

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Private Sewer Laterals

Private sewer laterals are the portion of the sewer network connecting individual and private properties to the public sewer system. Laterals are often in poor condition and can have a significant impact on the performance of the sewer system and treatment plant. Cracked or broken laterals can allow groundwater and infiltrating rainwater (clean water) to enter the sewer system which, at elevated levels, can cause problems at the treatment facility or overload the sewers and cause sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

The condition of sewer laterals can affect the results of sewer system rehabilitation programs, particularly those programs investigating and addressing capacity, inflow, and infiltration (I&I) issues. For example, after infiltration in a main sewer line has been corrected through rehabilitation, the groundwater level can rise and cause infiltration problems in adjacent sewer laterals (and can also result in water infiltration into nearby basements). This means that repairing or replacing sewer mains to remove infiltration may be less effective in reducing I&I than predicted until the laterals also are fixed. Typically, private laterals make up about half of the total length of a sewer system. Even when the system-wide impact of infiltration is not an issue, defective laterals can cause sewer backups on private lines, and can be a critical issue of concern in public works agencies.

The owners of the laterals may be unaware of these problems or unwilling to fix them if the consequences do not directly affect them. The need to remove sources of non-wastewater "inflow" into the sanitary sewer system from

private property is another concern for wastewater managers, and affect rates. These inflow sources can include connections from roof and driveway drains and from basement sump pumps.

These inflows were once permitted in many communities as a combined sewer system but are now typically prohibited. In general, removal of inflow sources represents one of the more cost-effective ways of removing unwanted (no need for treatment) water from a wastewater collection system. Newer laterals are installed with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe, but according to a Water Environment Research Foundation survey over fifty percent of private laterals are vitrified clay pipe (VCP). VCP is prone to root intrusion, cracks, joint misalignment and general leakage, and private laterals are estimated to contribute about 40 percent of a system's infiltration and inflow.

If you feel that your sewer lateral needs attention related to this article, please contact your favorite plumber for consultation.

Keep our Sewer Pipes Fat-Free!

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) are substances that can cause blockages in sewer pipes and damage the environment. FOG includes animal and vegetable fats, as well as oils used to cook and prepare food. To prevent FOG from entering the sewer system, it is important to dispose of it properly. Here are some best practices for FOG disposal:

1. Do not pour FOG down the drain. Instead, pour it into a lidded coffee can or other disposable container and throw it in the trash.
2. Clean greasy equipment in the proper place. Wash all floor mats and grills in a mop sink so the wastewater goes to a grease control device. Never clean this kind of equipment in an area where wastewater can flow to a gutter, storm drain or street.
3. Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids; empty strainer contents into trash.
4. Store grease in leak-proof containers with tight-fitting lids. Once full, discard in trash with the lid secured.
DO NOT pour into storm grates or on the ground.
DO NOT pour down sinks or drains.

By following these best practices, you can help prevent FOG from causing problems in your sewer system and protect the environment.



REVISED Office & Window Hours Begin in 2024!

Beginning on January 1, 2024, the Window and Front Door will ONLY BE OPEN Monday through Thursday from 1 PM until 4:30 PM and Fridays from 1 PM until 4:00 PM. The phones will continue to be staffed beginning at 8:00 AM each weekday.

The drive through payment drop box and night deposit will remain in place for payments. In addition to in-person, invoice payments can be made in many ways including bank drafts that are seamless and free of charge.

*Information related to this can be found at our website www.springfieldwater.org

Employee

Spotlight



Jamie Chesser has been a distribution employee for the Springfield Water Company for almost 3 years. Jamie also does some of the testing and sampling for the water plant. He was raised in Springfield and is a 1997 graduate of Washington County High School. He now resides in Willisburg with his wife Wendy, their two sons and one daughter. Jamie enjoys going fishing for catfish and watching basketball.