

Backflow Prevention Program

In order to prevent sewer main backups from entering homes or businesses, the City of Ashland has adopted a backflow prevention program in which the City will provide upon request a free sewer backflow preventer to be installed on the customer's sewer lateral. Installation, operation and maintenance of the backflow preventer are the responsibility of the home owner. To request your free backflow preventer, contact (606) 385-3192 for details.

What are signs that I may have a sewer lateral problem?

- Drains backup inside your house or building or is slow draining
- Sink holes in yard over sewer lateral
- Wet or soggy ground in your yard over or near your sewer lateral.
- Water standing in or coming out of your sewer clean-outs.
- Unusual odors

What are some things I can do for preventative maintenance?

- Have your sewer lateral video inspected and cleaned regularly
- Repair or replace deteriorated or damaged lateral pipes as soon as possible.
- Have clean-outs installed on lateral.
- Prevent clogs from FROGs (Fats, Roots, Oils and Grease) by following the simple steps outlined in this flyer.
- Do not flush diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products, paper towels or other items not intended for disposal down the sewer.
- Disconnect all downspout collectors, foundation drains, yard drains, sump pumps and other sources of rainwater or groundwater from your sewer connection.
- Keep all sewer traps full of water in order to avoid sewer gases and odors entering your home.

Who do I call if I have a problem?

If you have a sewer problem to report, please contact us at the following numbers:

Sewer Collection Division (606) 385-3192
(M-F from 7:00am to 3:30pm)

After Hours Emergencies (606) 385-3192

Engineering and Utilities Director (606) 385-3192



A Home Owner's Guide



Sewer Lateral Maintenance

What every home owner should know about their sewer lateral maintenance responsibility

Ashland

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1700 Greenup Ave
P.O. Box 1839
Ashland, KY 41105
Utility Director: Mark Hall
Phone: 606-385-3332

Web: www.ashlandky.gov

Ashland

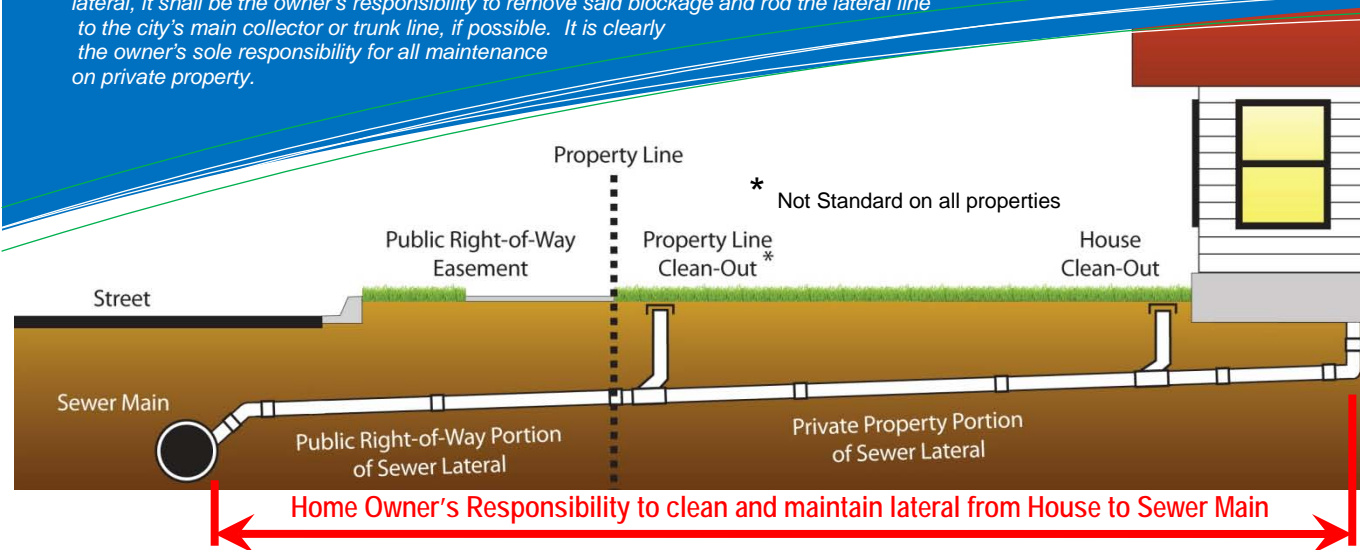
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City of Ashland Sewer Lateral Maintenance Ordinance

§ 50.019 SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION POLICIES.

(F) Owner's maintenance responsibility.

- (1) It shall be the owner's, or applicant's, responsibility to furnish, install and maintain the private sewer lateral from the building to the point of connection to the city's sewer system. However, in the event of a blockage in the private sewer lateral, it shall be the owner's responsibility to remove said blockage and rod the lateral line to the city's main collector or trunk line, if possible. It is clearly the owner's sole responsibility for all maintenance on private property.



What is a sewer lateral?

A sewer lateral is a private sewer collection system conveying sewage from individual homes or businesses to the city's sewer main. Typically sewer laterals only serve one residence or building; however some shared private laterals exist in the Ashland sewer system. The lateral is typically a 4 inch or 6 inch sewer line from the building to the street where the sewer main is typically located. The sewer lateral often has cleanouts, which are small access points to the sewer lateral for cleaning, maintaining and inspecting.

Who is responsible for the sewer lateral?

The maintenance responsibility of the entire lateral from the house to the sewer main is the home owner's responsibility. However, if there is damage or a clog in the private sewer lateral within the city's public right-of-way that cannot be cleared by reasonable plumbing methods and the repair of the lateral would impact the city's facilities (ie. Roads, sidewalks, waterlines, storm sewers...etc.), the city will repair the damage at no cost to the home owner. It is the home owner's responsibility to provide adequate proof to the city's sewer maintenance staff of the location of the failure and that it is not able to be cleared. This may be provided by video or an on-site meeting with the city's sewer maintenance staff and your plumber. If the location of the repair is located in a public right-of-way or easement which will not impact any city facilities, it is the home owner's responsibility to repair the lateral up to the point of connection with the public sewer, at the discretion of the city. Do not proceed with any work within the city right-of-way prior to city authorization.

Please note: The City sewer maintenance staff is not permitted to access the sewer lateral from a house clean-out or a clean-out on private property in order to verify a home owner's or plumber's claim that the lateral is not able to be cleared and the blockage is located within the right-of-way. If there is not a clean-out on the sewer lateral where the lateral leaves the property and enters the public right-of-way, the city may require the home owner to locate and expose the lateral at the right-of-way (property line) in order to verify the claim of the location and extent of the lateral repair needed in the right-of-way.

What is the city's responsibility?

The City of Ashland is responsible for operating and maintaining over 150 miles of sewer main lines (These are typically 8 inch and larger lines with manholes, located in the street rights-of-way or along streams or ravines) including 12 sewage pump stations. The city maintenance staff routinely cleans; video inspects; repairs, replaces, control roots, investigates for sources or inflow and infiltration; enforces proper grease trap maintenance, inspects new construction, takes samples, assists the public; and a number of other various functions.

Prevent clogs from FROGS

Fats, Roots, Oils and Grease

The leading causes of sewer lateral clogging are fats, roots, oils and grease.



Fats, oils and grease can clog sewer lines leading to very costly sewer damages from backups.

Don't let this happen to your pipes!!!!

Fats, oils and grease clogging may be easily prevented by a few simple steps.

1. Cool It: Allow hot fats, oils and greases to cool and solidify if possible.
2. Store It: Place it in a can or disposable container.
3. Can It: Throw fats, oils and grease away in the trash rather than washing it down the drains.



Roots are responsible for the majority of most sewer lateral failures. There are a number of preventative steps you can take to keep roots from clogging your drains.

1. Don't plant trees or shrubs over or near your sewer lateral.
2. Remove existing trees and shrubs over or near your sewer lateral or contact the City if the tree is within the street right-of-way.
3. Minor root control can be handled with products from your local hardware store or plumbing supply store. Periodic preventative maintenance may save you hundreds or thousands of dollars in future plumbing bills.
4. Major root control may require the services of a plumber.

