



Preventing Sewer Backups - Fact Sheet

What is a Sewer Backup?

A sewer backup occurs when sewage back-flows through a drain, toilet, or other fixture into your home. This may indicate that there is a blockage in your sewer line (lateral) or LASA's sewer main. Backups may result in expensive cleanup costs, repairs to your home and loss of personal possessions. Blockages may also trigger an overflow or backup of sewage into your yard, street or waterways creating a public health risk and threatening the environment.

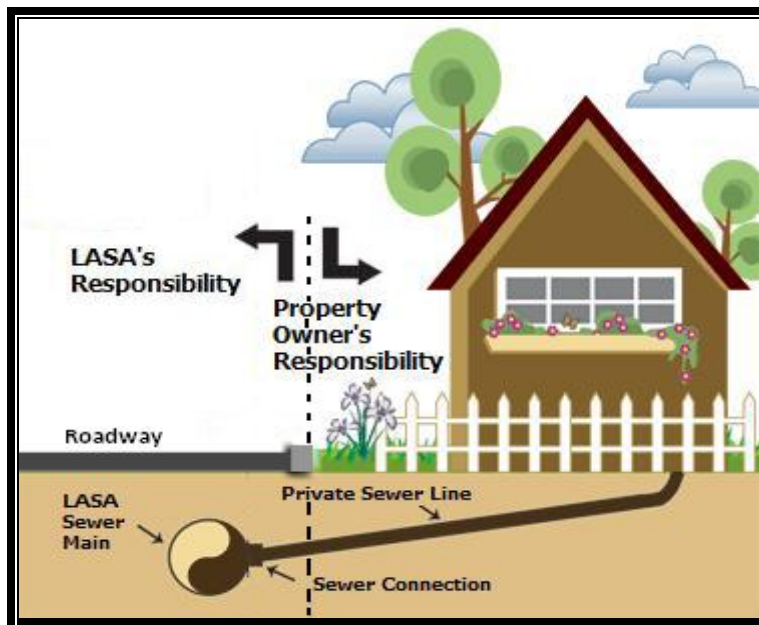
You can help prevent sewer backups by practicing the following:

Do

- Put cooking grease and oil into a container for disposal with your garbage.
- Use sink and shower drain strainers.
- Install a backwater prevention valve (contact your plumber for details).
- Seal off any basement floor drains if they are connected to the public sewer system.
- Consider purchasing sewage backup insurance. Damages for sewage backups are not typically covered under a standard homeowner's insurance policy.

Do Not

- Pour cooking grease or oil down your drains.
- Use your toilet as a trash can.
- Plant shrubs or trees close to your sewer lateral.
- Cover your vent pipe or hide them in flower beds.
- Connect sump pumps or rain gutters to the sanitary sewer.



If you notice sewage backing up into your home, call LASA at 717-299-4843 (Mon-Fri 8 am – 4:30 pm) or 717-396-9619 (After Hours). Emergency crews are on call 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to assist you.

For more information on dealing with sewer backups, please visit www.lasa.org.