

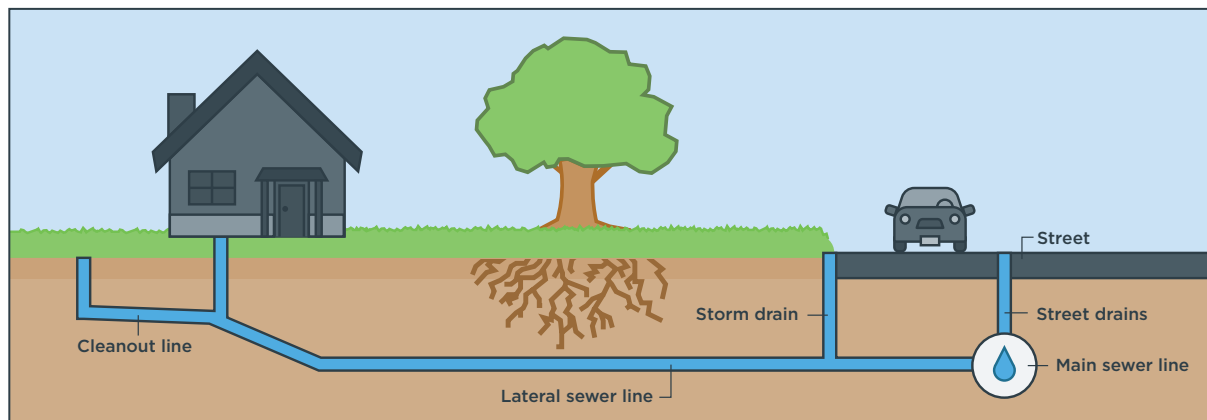
Sewer Lateral Maintenance & Backup

Have you experienced a sewer backup?

A sewer backup can be a traumatic event. Homes that suffer a sewer backup can result in thousands of dollars in damages, the destruction of personal property, and insurance claims 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 overflows into your lateral sewer pipe, which can flood into your basement.
2. Another case of sewer backup can occur through plugged pipes due to tree roots that have grown through the pipe joints, grease build-up, blockages and debris.



This diagram shows a typical home's lateral service connection to a combined sewer.

Can backups be avoided?

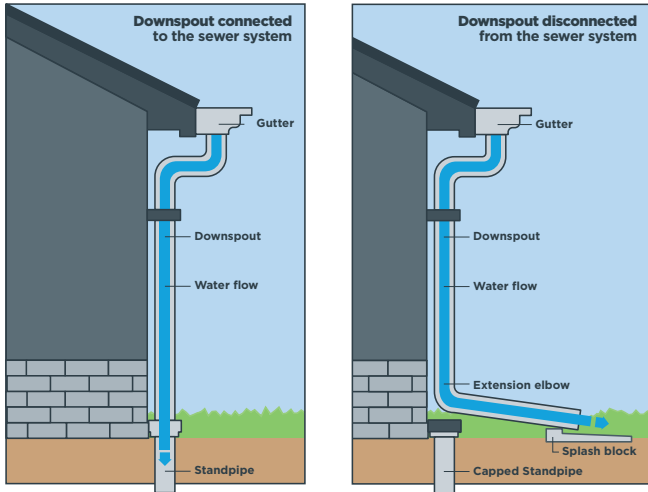
A backup in the sewer lateral pipe may cause your basement to flood. Several preventative measures for basement flooding are: disconnecting your foundation weeping tile from your home's sewer lateral pipe, redirecting your downspouts away from the foundation wall, installing a backwater valve, installing a sump pump, regrading your property, and/or having your lateral sewer 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, clogged sinks, bathtubs and floor drains. Most of which can be fixed by calling your local private plumber.
- **Plugged Service** – Over-sized objects entering your sewer lateral may be causing water to back up. The most common things include rags, kitchen towels, hair, underwear, grease build-up and children's toys.
- **Sagging** – Over time, failure in the pipe bedding at the bottom of the trench causes pipes to sag. This causes a section of the pipe to drop below the proper grade. Water particles and suspended solids then get trapped in the sagged area, eventually leading 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.

Four Ways to Reduce Sewer Backups

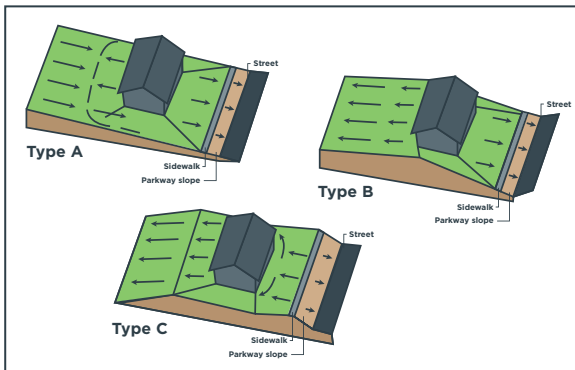
1. Disconnect or redirect your downspouts from the sewer system



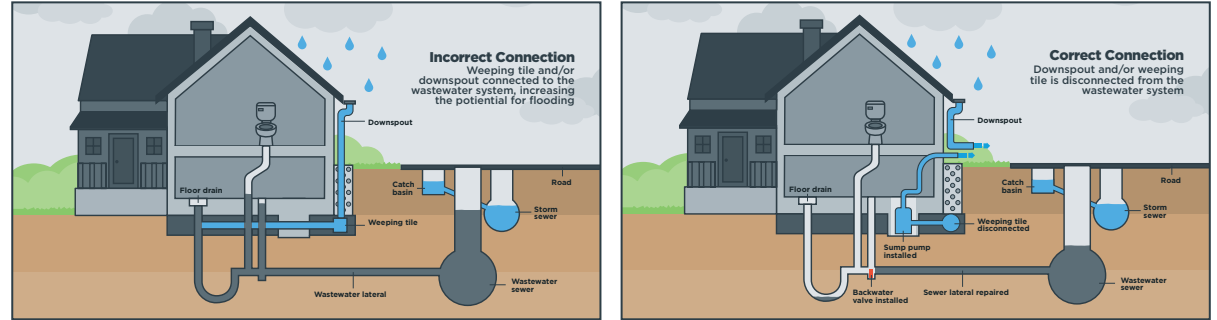
Downspouts connected from the eavestrough to the sewer pipe should be disconnected at the ground level and redirected onto the surface.

Diverting the discharge from the downspout away from the building foundation by adding an elbow with a splash pad to catch the water runoff can be an easy fix to basement flooding.

4. Having proper drainage



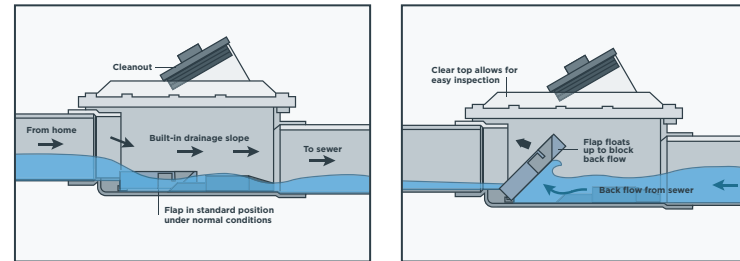
2. Weeping tile disconnection



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.

The benefits of disconnecting the weeping tile are to reduce the risk of basement flooding, reduce the cost of treating stormwater in the sewage treatment plant, improve the environment and reduce the cost of operating the sanitary sewer system.

3. Installing a backflow preventer



A backflow preventer is an accessory you can install in the sanitary sewer lateral pipe. In cases where the city sewer backs up and the flow becomes reversed (back into your home), the valve will remain closed and not allow the sanitary sewage to back up into your basement.

If the land around your foundation wall is low or slopes towards your house, you have a severe problem. In rainfall, the water will flow towards your home, down to your weeping tile and around your basement foundation and 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.

Active sewer backup or scheduling a camera inspection: 905-356-1355

WRAP Program: 905-356-7521 x 4211/4212

mwrequests@niagarafalls.ca



City of Niagara Falls
4310 Queen Street
P.O. Box 1023
Niagara Falls, ON
L2E 6X5
niagarafalls.ca