

Protect Your Sewer Lateral from Damage and Backups

- Have your lateral inspected and cleaned by a licensed plumber to ensure it is not damaged, cracked or clogged.
- Never pour fats, oils or grease down the drain; dispose in the trash. Substances can harden and block the sewer line.
- Never flush diapers, wipes or personal hygiene products.
- Never pour chemicals down your drains; some household cleaners can corrode pipes.
- Don't plant trees or shrubs near your sewer lateral; roots can grow into the pipes.

Tree Roots

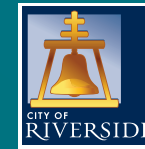
If properly installed and maintained, your house sewer lateral line will not typically allow the intrusion of tree roots. Occasionally, a line is installed improperly, or due to age, the joints in the lateral fail or the



pipe cracks and leaks. Nearby roots will seek the moist nutrient rich soil and may enter a failed sewer lateral. If the sewer line is not periodically inspected and maintained, the roots will grow and block wastewater flow from your house and cause a backup of the drains. This could cause flood damage and costly repairs.

Care should be given to place trees and shrubs a safe distance from sewer lateral lines.

(Ask your landscaper or nursery)



Home Sewer Lateral Maintenance

Protect your home from costly sewer backups



Public Works Department Wastewater Division

5950 Acorn Street, Riverside, CA 92504

Phone: (951) 351-6280

RiversideCA.gov/Publicworks

6 Tips for Choosing a Plumber or Contractor

-  Be sure they are licensed and **carry full insurance** that protects you and your neighbor's property in the event of a catastrophe.
- Ask for and check references.** Remember a business' longevity does not always guarantee quality service. 
-  Ask for a **flat, fixed quote** so you know exactly what you will pay. Quotes are usually free of charge.
- Get more than one** bid or quote for the job, but make sure you are comparing apples to apples for the same service level. 
-  Ask about the **company's guarantee**. Is it money back? Is it limited in any way? Is it written on your bid or quote?
- Request copies** of all quotes and repair invoice and reports for your records. 

Did You Know?

All household plumbing (the drains from sinks, showers, toilets, etc.) is attached to a sewer lateral line. This line carries waste water from the house to the City's sewer line in the street. Care and maintenance of the sewer lateral line and clean out from the house to the property line is the responsibility of the home owner. Periodic cleaning and inspection is essential to keep household waste water flowing!

(See illustration below)

Sewer Back Up Problem Solving

If a home sewer lateral line is blocked, it is the home owner's responsibility to determine the cause and remove the blockage to restore waste water flow. If not already installed, it is also the home owner's responsibility to have a sewer lateral maintenance clean out installed at the property line. Most licensed plumbers can provide service to locate and clear a lateral, install a clean out and make necessary repairs.

Once wastewater flow is restored and it has been determined by a licensed plumber or contractor that the City's portion of the sewer lateral is the problem, then it is important to immediately contact the City Customer Service Call Center at (951) 826-5311.

As part of the City's customer service response, City staff may request a copy of the plumber's service or contractor report and complete an inspection to determine the nature and cause of the problem.

