

City of Arlington Public Works

February 2018

Troubleshooting your Sewer Problem

Helpful Hints from City of Arlington Public Works

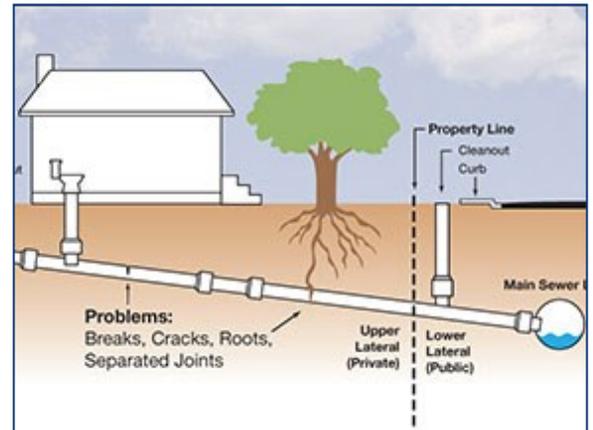
What is a Side Sewer?

The side sewer is the section of pipe that carries wastewater from your home, or from a building's plumbing system, to the public sewer system. Homeowners and building owners should know about their side sewer because they are responsible for maintaining and repairing that section of pipe.

Sewer Backups

Sewer backups can be very unpleasant and they need to be resolved quickly to eliminate exposure to potentially harmful bacteria and viruses.

Most frequently, sewer backups are a result of a clogged side sewer line. You are responsible for maintaining the side sewer that runs from your home to the City's right of way. If you have a backup, you should contact a certified plumber for assistance.



Common Sources of Side Sewer Problems

- Tree roots can penetrate older clay pipes. Modern side sewer pipes are heavy duty, water-tight plastic which lasts much longer.
- Sewer line collapse caused by old and deteriorated sewer pipes.
- Grease can contribute greatly to sewer problems. Prevent grease, fat, oil, wax and other debris from going down the drain by scraping them into the trash or compost. Do not put these kinds of materials into your garbage disposal. It can cause blockages in the sewer system, which can lead to backups.
- Illegal plumbing connections can cause problems. A connection of backyard drains, sump pumps and other systems to the city sewer is illegal and can place debris, silt and other foreign material that can clog your side sewer line.

When should I call the City?

Call the City of Arlington Sewer Department immediately if sewage is coming up inside your home when you are not using water. You can contact the Sewer Department's 24-hour emergency phone at [\(360\)913-1398](tel:3609131398). A crew will respond to repair any problems with the City sanitary sewer mains. You will need to call a certified plumber to repair any damage to your side sewer and/or to your personal property.

Hints:

Stay away from the area where sewage back-up is present. Always wear proper safety equipment (protective boots, rubber gloves, etc.) if you have to clean-up after a sewage backup. Remember to wash up thoroughly when you're finished.

The City has many records of side sewer installations (maps, as-built drawings, photographs). You may be able to obtain information about your side sewer by calling City of Arlington Public Works at (360) 403-3526.



For more information, contact: City of Arlington Public Works — (360) 403-3526
www.arlingtonwa.gov