Wastewater Collection System
Sewer Lateral Maintenance Procedure

Sewer Service Request Procedures
If a resident is experiencing a sewer backup, it is requested that the resident contact the City of Davis Public Works - Utilities and Operations Department by phone at (530) 757-5686 between the hours of 8am and 5:00pm or by the City’s Police Department non-emergency line after hours at (530) 747-5400. This will allow City staff to assess the situation as soon as possible, and to correct the problem if it is in the sections of the pipe system maintained by the City (see attached figures), at no cost to the resident. Calling the City directly can help to ensure as limited a delay as possible in responding, as City personnel do respond to all sanitary sewer calls from residents regardless of whether the resident initially calls the plumbing contractor or the City.

When City staff arrive at the call-out address, they will check the sewer main in the street or easement. If the inspection reveals a problem in the sewer main, City staff will correct the problem and inform the resident of the findings.

If the sewer main is operating properly and the property has a service lateral cleanout, City staff will determine if the service lateral is operating properly. If the service lateral is blocked, City staff will correct the problem and inform the resident of the findings. An illustration of the Front Yard Service Lateral system is included as Figure 1.

If the service lateral cleanout is not backed up, the cause of the sewer backup is most likely within the section of the system within the resident’s responsibility. City staff will inform the resident that he or she will need to hire a plumber to clear the blockage. City staff cannot provide recommendations for plumbers.

In the following cases, the customer will also need to obtain a plumber:
- No access to the service line clean out due to landscaping
- No access to the service line clean out due to concrete
- No service line clean out exists

Note: If no service lateral cleanout is located, City staff will request access to the building cleanout after the plumber has cleared the service lateral blockage to facilitate locating the service lateral cleanout for future access. If a service lateral cleanout does not exists, the city will install one at no cost to the resident.

The city does not have service laterals in backyard easements. This is illustrated in the attached Figure 2.

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FIGURE 1: FRONT YARD SEWER LATERAL
MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR UPPER AND LOWER LATERAL
WHERE CLEANOUT EXISTS

CALL US FIRST!
The City Can Determine
Where the Problem is:
SEWER BACKUPS --
CALL (530)757-5686

SEWER MAIN

BUILDING CLEANOUT

SERVICE LATERAL CLEANOUT

WYE

LOWER LATERAL

UPPER LATERAL

OWNER RESPONSIBILITY
BUILDING LATERAL
SEWER LATERAL
CITY RESPONSIBILITY
SERVICE LATERAL

FLOW
PRIVATE

THE CITY OF DAVIS SANITARY SEWER IS
INDICATED BY THE CROSS-HATCHED AREA.
THE CITY OF DAVIS SANITARY SEWER IS INDICATED BY THE CROSS-HATCHED AREA ON THE SKETCH.

NOTE:
THE CITY DOES NOT HAVE A SERVICE CLEANOUT NOR SERVICE LATERAL IN A BACKYARD SEWER MAIN ALIGNMENT.