

Front Yard Wastewater (Sewer) Lines

Maintenance Responsibilities and Procedures

Sewer Back-Up? Call The City First!

If you have a sewer back-up, call the City first at 530-757-5686 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, or 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) at no cost to the customer.

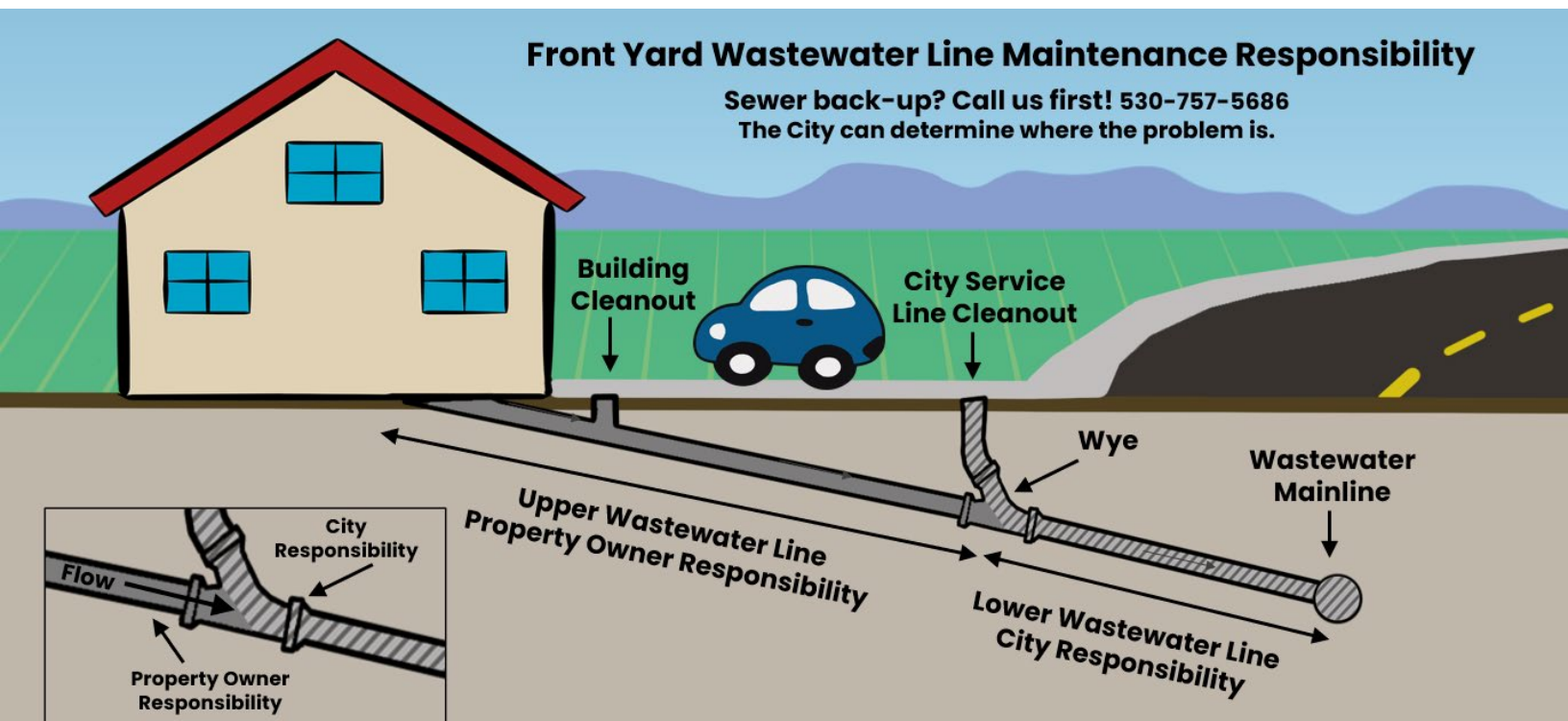
Wastewater Maintenance Responsibility

The property owner has the sole responsibility for clearing stoppages, inspecting and repairing the upper wastewater (sewer) lines so as to maintain them in a condition that avoids negative impacts to the operation and maintenance of the City's system.

Care and maintenance of the upper wastewater lines may include the following:

- The upper wastewater lines should be kept free from roots, grease deposits and other solids that may impede the flow or obstruct the transmission of waste.
- All pipes and joints should be tight and free of structural defects (such as cracks, breaks and missing portions) to prevent root intrusion, waste exfiltration or infiltration of water.
- Ensuring that no drains or other devices that collect stormwater or surface water are connected to the upper lateral.

Typically, the delineation of responsibility between the upper and lower wastewater lines is at the City cleanout. The illustration below is intended to show maintenance responsibility only. The area within the crosshatch indicates the portion of the wastewater lines that the City is responsible for clearing, repairing or replacing. The area without cross-hatch marks indicates the portion of the wastewater lines that the homeowner is responsible for maintaining and repairing. Replacement of the wye is done by the City of Davis and in coordination with the property owner under an approved permit.



Wastewater Maintenance Procedure



If a customer is experiencing a sewer backup, it is requested that the customer contact the City of Davis Public Works Utilities and Operations Department by phone at 530-757-5686 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. 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) at no cost to the property owner.

Calling the City directly can help ensure as limited a delay as possible in responding, as City personnel do respond to all wastewater (sewer) calls from customers regardless of whether the customer initially calls the plumbing contractor or the City.

When City staff arrive at the call-out address, they will check the wastewater 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 customer of the findings.

If the wastewater main is operating properly and the property has a City service line cleanout, City staff will determine if the lower wastewater line is operating properly. If the lower wastewater line is blocked, City staff will correct the problem and inform the customer of the findings.

If the City wastewater main, lower wastewater line and the service line cleanout are not backed up, the cause of the backup is most likely within the section of the system within the property owner's responsibility. City staff will inform the customer that they will need to hire a plumber to clear the blockage. City staff cannot provide recommendations for plumbers.

In the following cases, the property owner may also need to obtain a plumber or other contractor before the City can assist with checking the City wastewater lines for blockages:

- There is no access to the service line clean out due to landscaping
- There is 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 exist, the City will install one at no cost to the property owner.

Avoid Sewer Back-Ups: Don't Rush To Flush!

You can prevent back-ups by making sure that only water goes down sink and shower drains and by never flushing trash. Scrape grease and food scraps off pots, pans and plates into the organic waste bin before rinsing them off in the sink. Never dispose of food scraps down a garbage disposal. Use fine mesh screens on tubs and shower drains to keep hair from going down the drain and causing clogs.

Toilet paper is designed to disintegrate quickly when flushed. Other products labeled as "flushable" such as wipes and cat litter often do not break down enough to properly flow through wastewater lines, causing back-ups.