

SEWER MAINTENANCE

Property Owner's Responsibility

The Borough of Bergenfield is responsible for maintaining unobstructed wastewater flow in the sanitary sewer system. The line that connects a house or building to the Borough sewer system is called a service lateral. If a blockage occurs causing a sewer backup, the Borough encourages residents to call so a crew can verify which part of the line is obstructed.

A crew will check the main line and clear the line if necessary. If the main line is clear, the property owner will be notified of the need to call a plumber to clear the service lateral. **The property owner is ultimately responsible for the proper maintenance and repair of the entire lateral, premises to main.**

Why Do Sewer Lines Block?

Many things can become lodged in a sewer line causing backup; e.g. sticks, rocks, bricks, pieces of broken pipe, string, gas, grease, paper towels, newspaper, sanitary napkin, plastic, etc... Many blockages occur as a result of tree roots growing into sewer pipes. Roots collect grease and animal fat poured down drains. Over time, this collection of debris can cause an obstruction. You can prevent sewer backups in your home and protect the environment if you adhere to the following advice:

1. Avoid using hot water to dissolve grease on cookware. When dissolved grease touches cold pipes, it immediately coagulates and collects on walls of pipes.
2. Don't put eggshells in garbage disposals. Eggshells also collect on pipe walls.
3. Always run water first before loading your garbage disposal.
4. Don't flush diapers, sanitary napkins, and other bulky paper products down the toilet.

REMEMBER ALL OF THE ABOVE. HELP US TO HELP YOU

Department of Public Works
Monday to Friday 7am to 3:30pm
201-387-4055 x3

After Hours, Weekends, and Holidays
201-387-4000