

HOW TO DEAL WITH SEWER BACK-UPS IN THE TOWN OF MANLIUS

Sewer back-ups are a rare but frustrating experience for property owners with public sewers. In the Town of Manlius, the property owner is responsible for maintenance of the sewer lateral from the clean out/vent (the black mushroom cap), usually located near the property line, to the house. The Town is responsible for maintaining the sewer main and that portion of the lateral within the public right-of-way.

The Town of Manlius has a maintenance contract with the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection. Through this contract, the County is the first responder to sewer problems in the Town and can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 435-3157. If the problem is a blockage in the Town owned portion of the lateral, County personnel can usually remedy it. If the problem is of a recurring nature or involves a defect in the Town owned portion of the lateral (root growth, broken pipe), the County will coordinate with the Town Engineering Department to determine a course of action. This course of action may include construction repair of the lateral. If it is determined that the problem is within the privately owned portion of the lateral, the property owner will be advised to contact a licensed plumber.

The County and Town will respond to and investigate all sewer back-ups and should be the first call made if a problem arises (435-3157). If there is a problem with the sewer main or Town owned portion of the lateral, the Town will make sure the problem is addressed and repaired as soon as possible. These repairs and related restoration are completed at no direct cost to the property owner.

Property owners can help prevent sewer back-ups:

- Dispose of grease and fats with the trash, not down the drain.
- Dispose of diapers or other disposable personal hygiene products in your garbage, not the toilet.
- Dispose of bones and other food scraps in the garbage or through a grinder appliance.
- Don't connect yard drains, sump pumps or other drainage systems to the sanitary sewer. Consult a licensed plumber to disconnect any of these illegal connections.
- Consider installing a back-flow valve into your sewer system. A properly installed valve can reduce the likelihood of wastewater entering your home.
- Don't plant trees or shrubs near sewer lines.

Contact your homeowner's insurance provider to discuss the availability of coverage for damage from sewer back-ups if you don't already have it.

If you see or suspect a sewer overflow, contact the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection at any time. A maintenance crew will be sent to your home or business to investigate. Their phone number is 435-3157.