

OCCIDENTAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NEWS

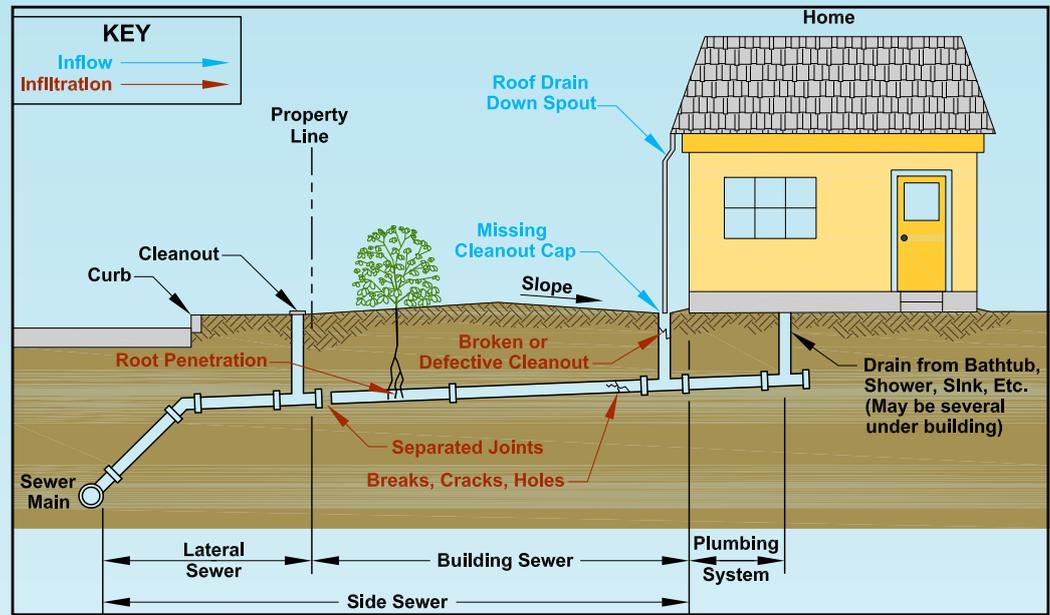
Everything you always wanted to know about your sewer lateral, but were afraid to ask

You may have never seen your sewer lateral, or even know what it is, but it could be one of the most important pieces of property you own. Your sewer lateral is an underground pipe that carries wastewater from your building's sinks, bathtubs, toilets and showers to the sanitary sewer system. As a property owner you are responsible for the maintenance, operation, cleaning, repair, and replacement of the private sewer lateral from your building to the property line.

Why It Is Important to Maintain Your Sewer Lateral

Over time, sewer laterals can crack, become disjointed or displaced, tree roots can intrude into old pipes and debris can build up. Grease can accumulate, or the ground beneath the lateral can sag and create problems. When this happens, blockages can occur and sewage can back up into buildings. A sewage spill can cause damage to your property that is expensive to fix, and sewage can overflow into creeks and streams and cause environmental damage.

Leaky or deteriorating sewer laterals also contribute to increases in inflow and infiltration (known as I&I) of stormwater and groundwater into the sewer collection and treatment system. This I&I greatly increases the amount of sewage flowing into treatment plants, which increases costs for the sanitation facility, and those costs are passed on to customers. Leaking sewer laterals and increased I&I also contribute to sanitary sewer overflows, which harm the environment and can result in costly penalties for sanitary facilities.



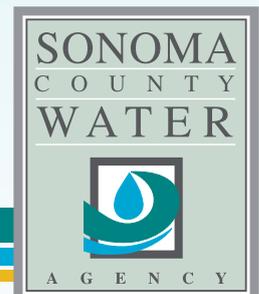
How Will You Know If Your Lateral Is Leaking?

Sewer laterals are underground, so most of the time you won't see a problem at the ground surface. Older laterals in the vicinity of trees or bushes are more likely to have problems. Sometimes when a sewer line backs up, it is caused by a faulty lateral. A plumber can inspect private sewer laterals by using a video camera to look for cracks, joint separations, root intrusion, blockages, and pipe sags.

How Can I Prevent Problems With My Lateral?

The simple answer is not to put anything down the drain or in the toilet that could cause problems. This includes: fats, rags, oils, and grease (FROG), medications, wipes and hazardous liquids. Fats, rags, oils and grease clog sewer lines, and medications and hazardous liquids pose challenges for the sewage treatment process. Also, you should never connect any storm drain to a sewer lateral. This greatly increases the flow in the sewer system during wet weather and could lead to spills and other problems.

To learn more visit www.sonomacountywater.org/lateral



Occidental County Sanitation District
c/o Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Private Building Lateral Replacement Program

If you are a property owner in the Occidental County Sanitation District you may be eligible for a free replacement of your sewer lateral. Under a program offered by the Occidental County Sanitation District (District), eligible ratepayers in the district can have their private building lateral pipes replaced for free. For more information or contact the program coordinator at (707) 547-1952, or visit: www.sonomacountywater.org/occidental-lateral

Water Rebates in your District

Sanitation District water saving rebate programs available

As a sanitation customer, you have some water saving tools at your finger tips! Please take advantage of the following water saving programs which are offered on a first-come, first-served basis while funding lasts:

CLOTHES WASHER Receive up to \$125 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW). Rebates are available for all Energy Star Most Efficient listed clothes washers except those containing silver ion technology. A \$75 rebate may also be available from PG&E.

TOILET Get up to \$150 back on the purchase and installation of each new, qualifying high-efficiency toilet (HET) from the List of Qualifying Models. Download rebate application forms and learn more at www.sonomacountywater.org/rebates or call (707) 547-1918.

HIGH-EFFICIENCY FIXTURE DIRECT INSTALL

PROGRAM A limited number of high-efficiency fixture retrofits, including toilet, urinal, faucet aerator and showerhead replacements, are offered at no cost to eligible properties. For more information and to register, go to: www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install.

GRASS REMOVAL If you are a well user within the Russian River watershed, you may now be eligible to save money and conserve water by replacing the grass at your home. Through emergency drought relief funding, the Water Agency is offering homeowners \$0.50 per square foot of grass removed and replaced with low water use plants, up to 500 sq. feet. To view a full list of the program guidelines and qualifications visit www.sonomacountywater.org/drought.

Securing our Future by Investing in our Water Resources, Environment & Community

www.sonomacountywater.org/OCSD

