

# SOUTH PARK COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NEWS

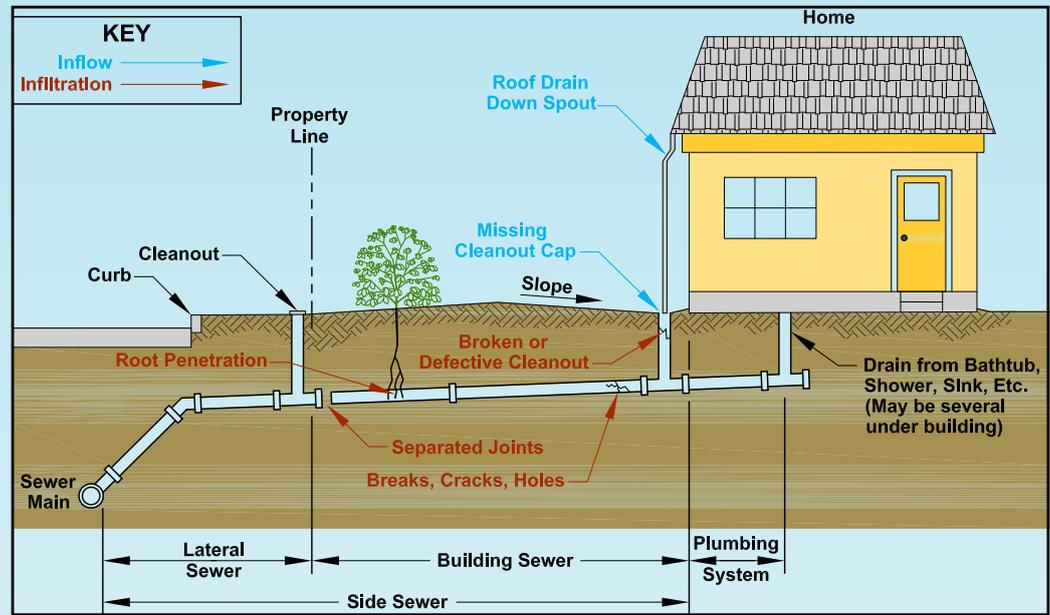
## Everything you always wanted to know about your sewer lateral, but were afraid to ask

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.



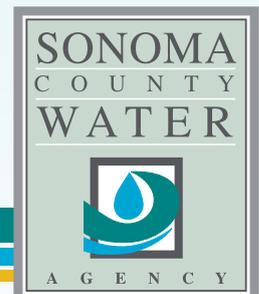
### How Will You Know If Your Lateral Is Leaking?

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](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/lateral)



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

## Safe Medicine Disposal

Residents of Sonoma and Mendocino counties can drop off their unwanted medications free of charge at medicine take-back locations throughout the region. The Safe Medicine Disposal Program is a partnership between local agencies, pharmacies, and law enforcement offices to safely dispose of unwanted medications, prevent overdoses, and protect the environment.



To find drop-off locations, visit:  
[www.safemedicinedisposal.org/drop-off-locations](http://www.safemedicinedisposal.org/drop-off-locations)

## Water Rebates in your District

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 through the City of Santa Rosa.

For more information visit, email or call: [srcity.org/wue](http://srcity.org/wue) • [wue@srcity.org](mailto:wue@srcity.org) • 707.543.3985

**HIGH-EFFICIENCY CLOTHES WASHER** Replace your inefficient washing machine with a High-Efficiency machine! Receive a rebate for the purchase of a qualifying machine.

**RECIRCULATING HOT WATER PUMP** Easy to install and heats up your water with the touch of a button. It keeps the cold water in the pipe until it reaches the desired temperature. Pre-inspection, receipt and post-inspection required for rebate.

**CASH FOR GRASS** Transform your underutilized grass into a beautiful low water use landscape. Pre and post-inspection required for rebate.

**IRRIGATION UPGRADE** Improve the efficiency of your existing irrigation system. Pre and post-inspection required for rebate.

**GRAYWATER REUSE** Graywater is collected from showers, bathtubs, bathroom sinks and clothes washing machines.

Graywater can be rerouted to your landscape to help meet your irrigation needs and reduce your monthly water bill. You actually get to use your water twice, and only pay for it once! Pre and post-inspection or workshop is required for rebate. A permit may be required.

**RAINWATER HARVESTING** Capture and reuse rainwater in your landscape. For every inch of rain received you can collect over 600 gallons per 1,000 square feet of rooftop. That will really add up to a lot of water that you can use in your garden! Pre and post-inspection required.

**SUSTAINED REDUCTION** Receive a rebate for every 1,000 gallons of sustained monthly water savings. Pre and post inspection and receipts required.

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

[www.sonomacountywater.org/SPCSD](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/SPCSD)

