



### Tips for Residents

Many sewer backups are caused by failed or deteriorated service laterals, which are owned and maintained by the property owner. For a single family home, the sewer lateral is typically a 4" diameter pipe which connects the home's plumbing to the sanitary sewer main, which is typically located in the street. Below are some helpful hints to protect your sewer lateral, home plumbing, as well as the sanitary sewer main:

- [Do not dump fats oils or grease down the drain](#) or into the toilet, as they may cool and solidify in the lateral sewer service. When the grease or oil solidifies in the lateral or sewer main, it restricts the pipe's capacity. Oils and greases from cooking should be collected in a metal can, cooled, and ultimately thrown in the trash.
- Never dispose of any flammable or hazardous material down the drain or toilet. Discharge of these materials is not only damaging, but may be dangerous and illegal. For disposal of any flammable or hazardous material please call your local fire department (403) 652-3774.
- Do not dispose of feminine sanitary products, paper products, or disposable diapers in the toilet. Instead, they should be wrapped and placed into a trash receptacle.
- Pour water or a mixture of water and vinegar into any floor drains or other drains which are not regularly used to keep the sewer trap full of water. This will prevent sewer odors and gases from entering your home.
- If you know the location of your sewer lateral, be careful to prevent any trees from growing near it. Tree roots can migrate towards a lateral and constrict it.