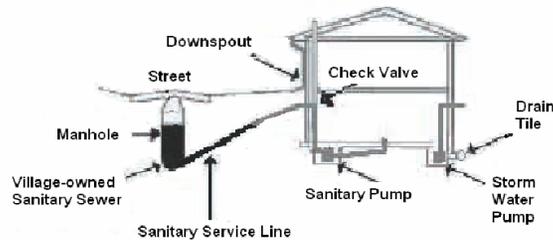


How can Homeowners Reduce the Risk of Wastewater Back-ups?

Installing a standpipe, installing a backwater valve, installing an overhead sewer and disconnecting downspouts are all ways to reduce the risk of wastewater back-ups in the home.

Overhead Sewer (Preferred)

Since 1972 all homes have been required to have overhead sewers. For those homes built prior to 1972, installing an overhead sewer is the most reliable way to protect against sewer back-ups.



Precautions: Installation of an overhead sewer should only be performed by a licensed plumber.

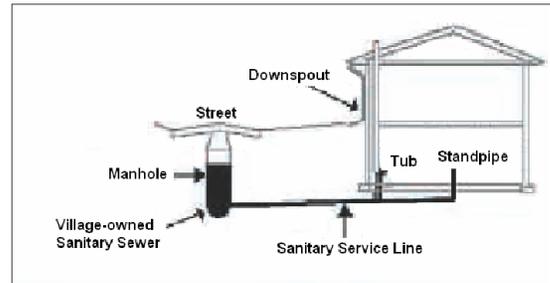
Backwater Valve

Installing a backwater valve prevents wastewater from backing up in the sanitary service line

Precautions: The valve can be plugged shut. Facilities in the home will not be operable until surcharging is reduced. Additionally, structural damage may occur.

Standpipe

Installing a standpipe in the floor drain increases the elevation at which the sewer will need to back-up before flooding will occur.



Precautions: If the elevation of the back-up is high enough, the back-up will be seen in the next higher opening (basement toilet or tub) and structural damage to the home may occur.

Village of Oak Lawn

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Steve Barrett
Director of Public Works

<http://www.oaklawn-il.gov/Home.aspx>



**Department of
Public Works**

**Flood
Protection
Program**

**HOME
OWNER'S
GUIDE TO
RESIDENTIAL
SEWER
SYSTEMS
(GRAVITY
CONNECTION)**

What is a Sanitary Sewer?

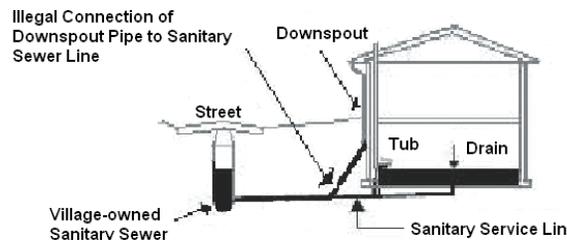
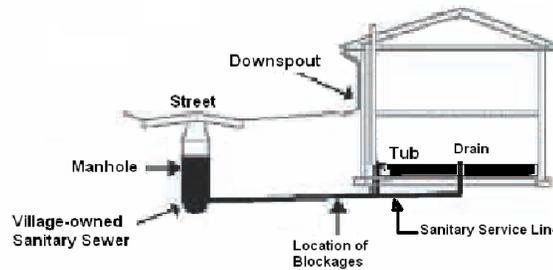
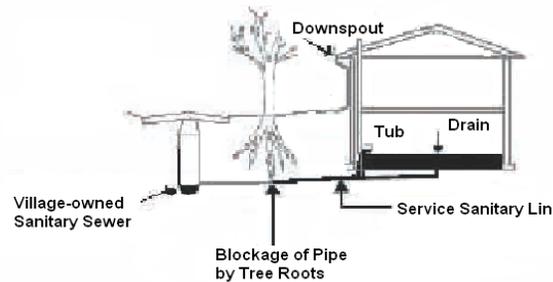
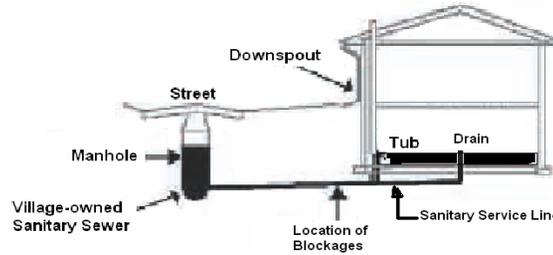
A sanitary sewer is a pipe located within the village right of way designed to transport wastewater from sanitary fixtures and floor drains to treatment facilities. The sanitary sewer pipes are owned and maintained by the village.

What is a Sanitary Sewer Line?

A sanitary service line is the pipe that transports wastewater from each residence to the village owned sanitary sewer. The sanitary service line is owned and maintained by the homeowner.

What causes Wastewater Back-ups?

Wastewater back-ups can occur for a number of reasons. The most common causes of wastewater back-ups are blockages, tree roots, collapsed sanitary service lines and illegal connections.



Blockages from grease or debris can cause partial or complete blockage of the sanitary sewer service. Grease bonds to the sanitary pipe, which can restrict and ultimately cut off the sanitary service from the village owned sanitary main.

Tree roots can cause partial or complete blockage of the sanitary sewer service line. Pouring tree root killer down the service line once a year can help correct this problem or having the line professionally rod-

Collapsed sanitary service lines will prevent wastewater from the house from entering the village owned sanitary sewer.

Illegal connections resulting in storm water being discharged to the sanitary service line can overload the system during heavy rainfall events resulting in basement flooding.