



Points of Interest

- Protecting Your Property from Overflows
- Plant of the Year
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Tip of the Season

**Sewer blockage or overflow?
Call us first at 644-8949**

PROPERTY PROTECTION TIPS

Wastewater from sinks, toilets, washing machines and other sources flows from houses through a sewer line called a *lateral* that connects to the main sewer line.

Sewer laterals can be blocked by tree roots, grease buildup, or debris in the pipes. It doesn't happen often, but a major sewer overflow can occur, causing expensive damage.

To protect property from sewer overflows, many houses have an *overflow prevention device* that acts like a pressure cooker valve. If a blockage occurs in the pipes, the device is designed to overflow outside the house.

We recommend that you check to see what kind of sewer overflow device you have, if you have one at all. If you do not have

one, you may be eligible for our Upper Lateral program. Find out more about this program at www.vsfcd.com.

An overflow device is usually found in the front yard within five feet of the foundation. It is often a cast iron or clay pipe, 4" in diameter. If your sewer overflow device looks like a plastic or aluminum mushroom, you are in good shape.

Newer homes may have concrete boxes that cover the device. If your device is in a concrete box, lift the lid of the box.

If your device looks like a pipe that has a cap screwed on tightly, we recommend unscrewing the cap and simply resting it on top of the pipe. This will allow a potential backup to flow outside the house. If the cap is secured, however, the sewer backup can be pushed back into the house,



overflowing toilets and sinks. If there is no device near your house, check inside the sewer box in your sidewalk. If that cap is screwed down, call the District so we can replace it with a proper device.

If you have questions, concerns, or can't find your sewer overflow device, give us a call at **644-8949**.

We'll have a customer service tech come by your house and give you a free evaluation.

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PLANT OF THE YEAR



Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District is honored to be selected as the 2006 Plant of the Year by the Redwood Empire Section of the California Water Environment Association. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in the wastewater field. To be awarded Plant of the Year, a treatment plant needs to show superior plant

operations, excellence in management and staff development, innovative practices, cost effectiveness, energy conservation, and a strong commitment to public education and safety.