

## Sewage Spill Regulatory Requirements

You are bound by law to follow local ordinances. Plumbers must be licensed in California by the California State Contractors Board.

New statewide sanitary sewer overflow requirements (**Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ**) were recently adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on **May 2, 2006**.

**California Health and Safety Code**, Sections 5410-5416:

- No person shall discharge raw or treated sewage or other waste in a manner that results in contamination, pollution or a nuisance.
- Any person who causes or permits a sewage discharge to any state waters:
  - Must immediately notify the local health agency of the discharge.
  - Shall reimburse the local health agency for services that protect the public's health and safety (water contact receiving waters),
  - Who fails to provide the required notice to the local health agency is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine between (\$500-\$1,000) and/or imprisonment for less than one year.

**California Water Code**, Article 4, Chapter 4, Section 13268-13271

**California Code of Regulations**, Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9.2, Article 2, Sections 2250-2260:

- Any person who causes or permits sewage in excess of 1,000 gallons to be discharged to state water shall immediately notify the Office of Emergency Services.
- Any person who fails to provide the notice required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine (less than \$20,000) and /or imprisonment for not more than one year.

*Revised October 2007*

Permit information and ordinances are available from the District office.

For more information, please call the Vallejo

Sanitation & Flood

Control District at

**(707) 644-8949**

To report an overflow, call the

24-Hour Hotline at

**(707) 644-8949**

For emergencies, dial **911**.



450 Ryder Street  
Vallejo, California 94590  
Phone: 707.644.8949  
[www.VallejoWastewater.org](http://www.VallejoWastewater.org)

*Vallejo Flood &  
Wastewater District*

## Plumbers & Sewer Contractors



*Your actions can  
prevent sewer overflows!*

# What is the problem?



## What are SSOs?

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) are discharges of untreated sewage including overflows from the collection system as well as backups into homes.

## Sewer Laterals

Private sewer laterals are the portion between the house and the connection to the sewer main in the street. Sewer laterals are generally not within the jurisdictions of public agencies and are not constructed or maintained by these agencies, with one exception: If a District cleanout exists, the District maintains the lateral from the cleanout to the sewer main.

Blockages in private laterals contribute to SSOs. Blockages are frequently caused by problems with the construction of the laterals or improper line cleaning.

The number of SSOs in private laterals can be reduced with your help.

# Your activities can cause overflows!

Major causes of SSOs include:

- *Debris Blockages*: construction materials or tools left in lines
- *Construction Issues*: sags, protruding laterals, misaligned pipes, offset joints
- *Maintenance*: lack of proper maintenance; flushing material into main instead of removal and disposal
- *Contractor-Caused Damage*: breaking of sewer pipes or damage to pump stations.

# What are the impacts?

SSOs may cause environmental and public health impacts.

SSOs discharge untreated or partially treated human and industrial waste, toxic materials, debris and disease causing organisms onto the ground or into our rivers, lakes, or streams.

SSOs may make rivers, lakes, streams, or beaches unsafe for fishing, swimming or canoeing.

SSOs may result in property damage and potential liability to you or your company. Allowing sewage to discharge to a gutter or storm drain may subject you to penalties and/or out-of-pocket costs to reimburse cities or public agencies for clean-up efforts!

# What can you do to help?

## CLEARING LINES

When clearing sewer lines, remove debris, don't just push it through. Use plenty of water to flush lines. If debris removal is impractical, call us so that we can make recommendations before the blockage worsens further downstream.

## CONSTRUCTION

We require a permit and inspection when connecting to the sewer system.

- Follow standard plans and specifications. Call us for a copy of the District's specifications.
- Check your work area. Make sure there is no debris left in the sewer line. Gravel, backfill material, pipe tools, and pipe appurtenances can become lodged in sewer lines and cause blockages. Protect sewer lines so that dirt, sand and rock do not enter while you are working on them.
- Do quality work—avoid offset joints. Offset joints make sewer lines vulnerable to root intrusion, make debris hang up and make lines harder to clean. Properly bed your joints.
- Follow District codes and standards for all connections.
- Don't open manholes. Deadly sewer gasses are odorless and undetectable. Call us to open manholes for you.