

Vallejo Flood & Wastewater District Can Help

Here's How

Vallejo Flood & Wastewater District's Upper Lateral Program helps offset the costs of repairing or replacing private sewer pipes for property owners in the greater Vallejo area.

Evaluations must be performed **before the work is done**. Owners must submit a Pre-Evaluation Questionnaire for approval. The application is available on our website at www.VallejoWastewater.org. Click on Forms, then Upper Lateral Program, and download the application. Instructions for filling out the form are on the same page. After you have filled out the form, read the Program Acknowledgement, fill in your address, sign, and mail, email or fax to us.

We will then inspect your lateral and determine if you qualify for the program, and let you know how much reimbursement you are entitled to.



Call us first!

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Remember, in order to receive a reimbursement, you must be approved for the program **before** making the repairs.



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*Vallejo Flood &
Wastewater District*

How Do You Know ...



*If it's time to repair
or replace your sewer
pipe?*

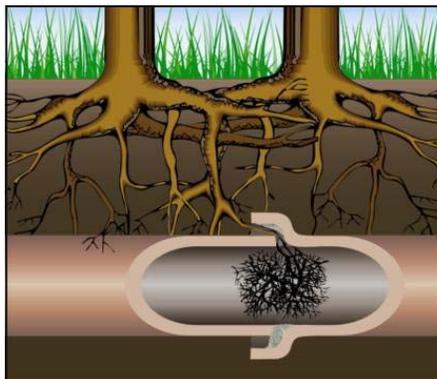
Sewer Problems?

You don't usually think about your sewer pipes until something goes wrong: a toilet or drain backs up, or a smelly hole appears in your yard. These are signs that your sewer line may be blocked or broken.

Property owners are responsible for the sewer pipe (called a *lateral*) that extends from their house or building to the public sewer line. Vallejo Flood & Wastewater District is responsible for the public portion of the sewer only.

Why do pipes fail?

Nothing lasts forever, and a sewer pipe is no exception. The older the lateral is, the more likely you are to have problems with it. Properly installed PVC laterals can last for 100 years or more, but some older ones are made of clay, cast iron, or other materials with a shorter life span.



If you live in a house (or own a building) built before the early 1970s, chances are that your lateral is a clay pipe.

The most common sewer problem is tree root intrusion. Roots squeeze their way into tiny cracks in the pipe or joint. Moisture and nutrients within the pipe enable the root to grow so densely that they can completely plug up the line.

Sewer pipes can also get clogged by an accumulation of grease and debris, such as disposable wipes. Many other factors can cause sewer pipes to clog, break or collapse.

When should a pipe be replaced?

If you have a sewage backup, it doesn't necessarily mean that your lateral will need replacement. There may simply be a clog that can easily be removed by cleaning the pipe, or perhaps only one or two segments are broken and can be inexpensively repaired. If you smell sewage, if there are patches in your

yard that are always wet, or you see a wet sinkhole, you will probably need to repair or replace your lateral. **Call us first!** We can help you determine if the problem is yours or ours to fix. If it is your responsibility, call a professional plumbing contractor. A video inspection of the inside of the pipe by the plumber, after cleaning to remove clogs, is the surest way to find out if the pipe joints are cracked, broken or offset, or if the pipe itself is cracked or broken.

How much will it cost?

The cost to repair or replace your lateral depends on several factors. It could cost anywhere from \$500 to \$10,000 or more. Factors include location, accessibility, length of pipe to be repaired or replaced, depth of the pipe, cause of failure, type of pipe material, and the number of connections or fittings all play a role in determining the cost of the project. **Always get an estimate from at least three contractors.**

