THE SEWER SYSTEM A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The City of Lakewood's Public Works Department safeguards the public sewer mains serving about 8,000 customers in north Lakewood. But half the sewer system is privately owned lateral lines, which are the cause of many sewage backups.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the entire length of their lateral line from their home or business to where it meets the sewer main under the street.

This drawing highlights best practices to prevent sewage backups.

ROOF DRAIN (GUTTERS)

NEVER connect the roof drain to the sewer.



BATHROOM

Flush ONLY toilet paper and human waste!

Do not flush anything else, including "flushable" wipes, hair, dental floss, cat litter, medications, feminine products and household hazardous waste.

(Wastewater plants don't remove pharmaceuticals so they end up in the river!)

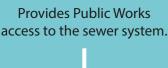
KITCHEN

Never put egg shells, coffee grounds, fat, or grease down your garbage disposal.

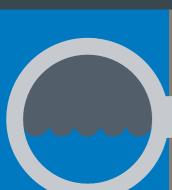
They form a cement-like substance that can clog your line.

SEWER RELIEF VALVE (SRV) AND CLEANOUT

If a sewer main blockage happens, this device diverts wastewater into your yard so it doesn't back up into your home. Check it regularly, especially after storms, to ensure it's operating and clear of obstructions.



MANHOLE



PIPELINE TO TREATMENT PLANT

1

LATERAL LINE

Connects your home to the sewer main line by gravity flow.

Some buildings require pumps to lift wastewater to the public sewer system.

L BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE

A valve that clamps shut to protect your home against sewage backups.

The device is an industry best practice and is required by Colorado Plumbing Code for some properties.



NEVER connect a sump pump to the sewer system.



HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE

It is illegal to put these items in the garbage or down any drain or toilet: Paint/solvents, cleaning products, motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides or fertilizers.

Please visit rooneyroadrecycling.org to learn more about proper disposal of your hazardous household waste.

PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

PROPERTY

LINE



CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU—DAY OR NIGHT! If sewer water is backing up in your home or yard it is an emergency—don't hesitate to call us for an immediate inspection of the City-owned sewer main. Our friendly, professional crew is on call 24 hours a day, every day and can tell you if the problem is in the **main line (our problem)** or the **lateral line (your responsibility)**.

Lakewood.org/PublicWorks