

**EVERY YEAR DELAWARE COUNTY RESIDENTS PAY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO TREAT RAINWATER IN THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS!**

**THAT'S TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WASTED EACH WEEK AND IT'S PAID FOR THROUGH YOUR SEWER FEES!**



Your sewer lateral is the pipe from your house to the sewer main in your street. You own the sewer lateral under your yard.

Leaky sewer laterals, connected downspouts, and sump pumps allow rainwater to enter the sanitary sewer system.

Once that rainwater mixes with the sewage, it must be treated at the sewage treatment plant.

You are responsible for properly maintaining your sewer lateral to stop rainwater from entering the sanitary sewer system.

A well-maintained lateral protects public health and the environment and can help you save money.

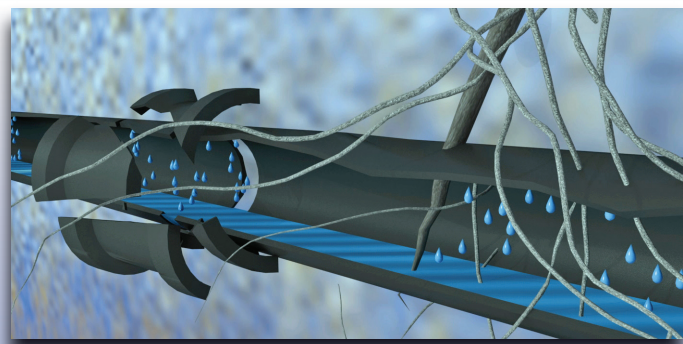
**SEWER LATERALS NEED TO BE INSPECTED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE NOT INSPECTED, REPAIRED, OR REPLACED YOUR LATERAL, IT COULD BE FAILING.**

Failing laterals have old-age cracks, loose pipe joints, and tree roots, which let rainwater into the sewer system.

Rainwater also enters the lateral through connected downspouts, basement sump pumps, foundation drains, and driveway drains.

**WHEN RAINWATER IS ALLOWED INTO YOUR LATERAL, THE SEWER MAINS CAN OVERLOAD, LEADING TO A BACKUP OF RAW SEWAGE IN BASEMENTS.**

Sewage is foul smelling, very difficult to clean up, and it can make your family very sick. It is a nightmare if sewage backs up into a house, damaging furniture, children's toys, irreplaceable family photos, or an entertainment/recreational area.



DELCORA  
100 East Fifth Street  
P.O. Box 999  
Chester, PA 19016-0999

**STOP THROWING  
MONEY DOWN THE  
DRAIN!**



**How to Safeguard your Home,  
Community, and Environment**

**SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS ARE DESIGNED TO TREAT THE WASTEWATER FROM THE HOMES, BUSINESSES, AND INDUSTRIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY. BUT WHEN CONNECTED DOWNSPOUTS, SUMP PUMPS, AND LEAKY LATERALS LET RAINWATER INTO THE SYSTEM, THE EXTRA WATER CAN OVERLOAD THE SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITY.**



If extra water overwhelms the treatment facility, raw sewage may overflow manholes into the streets.

Raw sewage may even be discharged from the treatment facility directly into streams and rivers in your community.

Raw sewage in public areas can make people very sick! And raw sewage in creeks and streams is an environmental disaster!

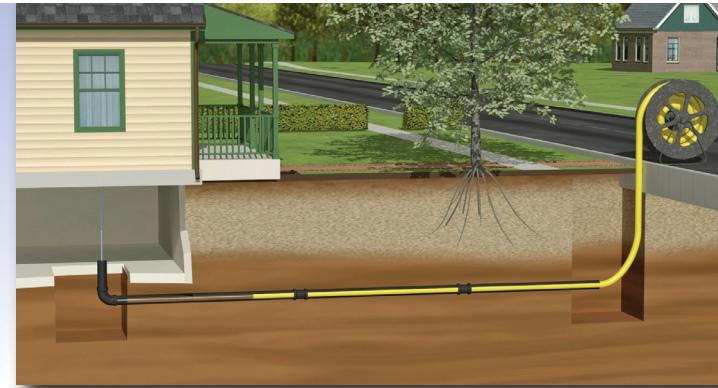
**A QUALIFIED PLUMBER CAN FIND PROBLEMS IN YOUR SEWER LATERAL AND HELP FIND ANY IMPROPER CONNECTIONS USING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TECHNIQUES:**

- **Visual inspection** - A special camera is pushed through your lateral. The plumber can view the lateral's interior on a video screen and see any problems.
- **Dye testing** - A non-toxic dye is dripped into locations around your house, including downspouts and the soil above the lateral. Dye appearing in nearby manholes indicates problems.
- **Smoke testing** - A special, non-toxic smoke is pumped from the sewer main into your lateral and monitored to see where the smoke appears. Smoke escaping from the pipe up through the ground indicates a break in the pipe. Smoke escaping from the downspout indicates an improper connection.



**IF A DOWNSPOUT OR SUMP PUMP IS CONNECTED TO YOUR LATERAL, YOU MUST HAVE IT DISCONNECTED.**

**IF YOUR LATERAL HAS CRACKS, LOOSE PIPE JOINTS, OR TREE ROOTS, YOU MUST HAVE IT REPAIRED OR REPLACED.**



**YOU CAN HAVE YOUR LATERAL REPAIRED IN SEVERAL WAYS:**

- **Open cut excavation** is the traditional method of digging out your lateral for removal and replacement.
- **Slip lining** (pictured left) does not require extensive excavation. A winch pulls a flexible, liner pipe into place inside your existing pipe.



• **Pipe bursting** is like slip lining except a small, metal ram is pulled through your existing pipe. The ram breaks the pipe and pushes the pieces into the soil, pulling a new pipe into place behind it.

• **CIPP (cured-in-place pipe)** involves a felt tube, saturated with glue, being inflated inside your existing damaged pipe. Once the glue has set, the felt tube liner is left in place and the repair is complete.

**AS LATERALS AGE WITHOUT BEING INSPECTED OR REPAIRED, THE COST GOES UP TO TREAT RAINWATER AND THE CHANCE INCREASES FOR A SEWAGE BACKUP IN YOUR BASEMENT.**

Everyone knows how important it is to maintain your property and home. It is just as important to maintain your sewer lateral even though you cannot see it.

You must inspect your sewer lateral to ensure that you are not contributing to the problem.

The Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority (DELCORA) exists to protect and improve the quality of life of our communities.



**For more information, contact:**

DELCORA  
100 East Fifth Street  
P.O. Box 999  
Chester, PA 19016-0999

**Or**

Your Local Sewer Agency  
You may find the address on your sewer bill or in the phonebook

**OR WATCH A FREE VIDEO ON THE INTERNET: [WWW.DELCORA.ORG](http://WWW.DELCORA.ORG)**