

What causes sewer blockages?

Some of the most common causes of sewer blockage are:

- Build-up of grease, debris or foreign objects in the sewer lateral or District sewer main.
- Partial or complete blockage caused by tree root intrusion into sewer pipes.
- Sewer line collapse caused by old and deteriorated sewer pipes.
- Debris entering the sewer system from illegal pipe connections.

Here are a few tips that will help protect against blockages:

Sewer mainline blockages are part of our emergency response. Helping reduce blockages can reduce the cost to fix the problem, and reduce overall District expenditures.

Roots: Don't plant trees or large shrubs near sewer lines. Roots grow toward breaks and cracks in the pipes in search of a source. If roots get inside the pipe, they form root balls that clog the line. Products are available that chemically treat roots which have found their way into pipes.



Root intrusion



Root intrusion

Grease: Dispose of grease and fats with your trash – don't put them down the drain! Grease collects and hardens inside the pipes and forms a plug.



Grease build up



Grease build up

Deteriorated pipes: Some homes may have damaged or deteriorated pipes. Before considering upgrades or replacement, you may want to contact a plumber to discuss which options are appropriate for your situation.

Illegal plumbing connections: Don't connect backyard drains, sump pumps and other drainage systems to the sanitary sewer. It's illegal and debris and silt will clog your line. Consult a plumber to disconnect illegal connections.

