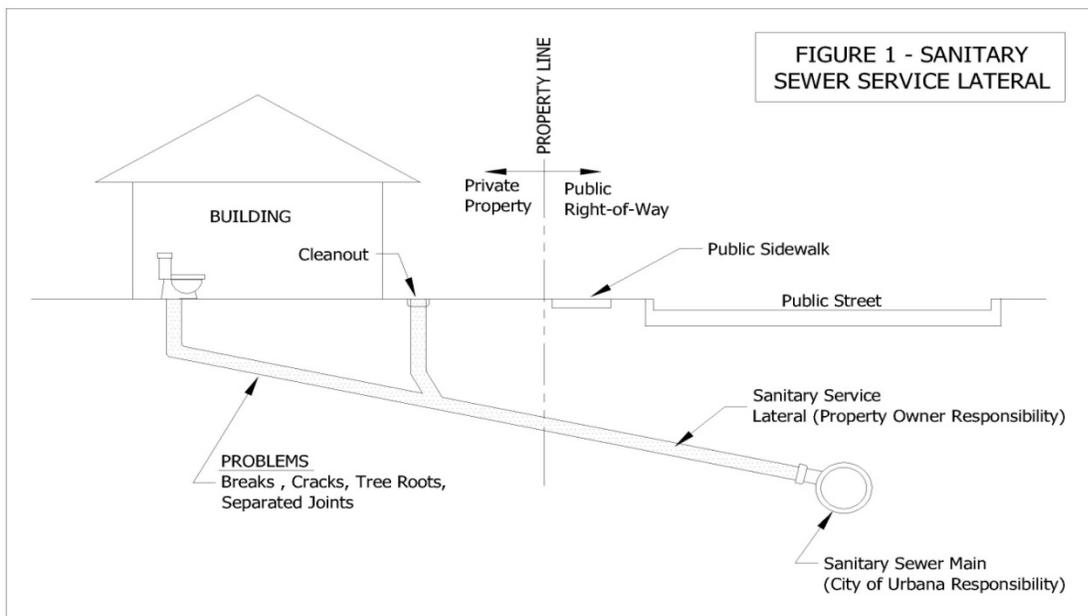


SEWER LATERAL INFORMATION

A sanitary sewer service lateral is the pipe that connects a home's or business' plumbing to the City's sanitary sewer system as illustrated in Figure 1. All homes or businesses in the vicinity of a sanitary sewer have a sanitary sewer service lateral connection to it.

A storm sewer service lateral is the pipe that connects a home's or business's downspouts, foundation drains (footing tile), sump pump discharge, and/or yard area drains to the City's storm sewer system. There are fewer homes and businesses that have storm sewer service laterals than sanitary sewer service laterals. Generally, storm sewer service laterals are typically present at homes or businesses with basements.

The City sanitary and storm sewer main can be located on private property (side yard, front yard or backyard in an easement) or in City right-of-way (R.O.W.) (within the parkway or under the street).



Many homes in the City were built before 1950 and often have not replaced their original sewer service laterals. Over time, these pipes, generally made of clay, can crack, break, collapse, become disjointed, experience displacement, and/or be subject to intrusion by roots, all of which can cause blockage or pipe failure. Homeowner's insurance programs do not typically cover the cost of repairing/replacing laterals since it is considered a normal part of home maintenance.

In Urbana the maintenance of the sanitary and storm sewer service lateral up to the connection to the City's sewer main is the responsibility of the property owner. Section 24-38 Paragraph (c) of the City Code for the City's policy on sewer service laterals states that "all costs and expenses incident to the installation, connection, repair, and maintenance of the building sewer shall be borne by the owner, and for such purposes, the owner is granted permission to excavate in the public right of way subject to the regulations of the director of public works". The connection to the main is typically a tee or wye which is considered part of the public sanitary sewer and thus the City's responsibility to maintain.

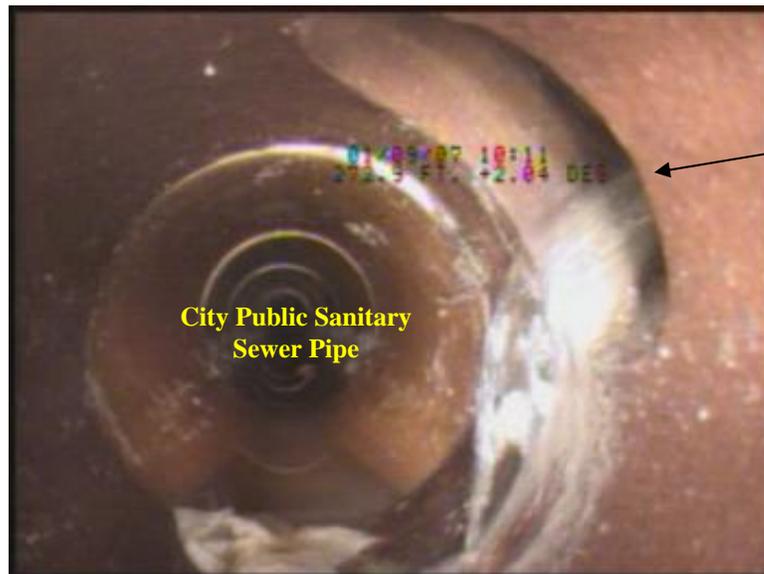


Photo of a typical sanitary sewer service lateral connection as viewed from inside a City public sanitary sewer pipe.

The City of Champaign, Village of Savoy, City of Danville, Village of Rantoul, City of Charleston, City of Mattoon, City of Decatur, City of Bloomington, and City of Normal all

require property owners to maintain the sanitary and storm sewer service lateral to the point of connection to the City/Village sewer main.

Normal maintenance of service laterals includes the removal of materials that are flushed or dropped/inserted down the service line (including leaves, dirt, toys, baby diapers, etc.) or tree roots that enter through joints or cracks in the pipe. Debris and materials are generally removed by rodding or jetting the sewer lateral. Rodding involves applying a torque to a steel rod that is passed through the lateral, rotating the cleaning device attached to the lead end of the rod. Jetting is a hydraulic method of cleaning laterals that directs high-velocity streams of water against the pipe walls at various angles.

A hydraulic root cutter is typically used to remove root obstructions in service laterals. This method uses the high-pressure water from the sewer jet truck to operate a hydraulic root cutter. The high-pressure water turns a hydraulic motor, which has a rotating root cutting blade attached to the motor shaft. As with the jet cleaning nozzles, there are rear-facing jets on the root cutter assembly, which propels the cutter up and down the sewer pipe. Mild herbicides may also be applied to sanitary sewer laterals to slow the growth of roots in the pipe without harming the tree. These herbicides cannot be used in storm sewer laterals. There are several sewer cleaning contractors in Urbana-Champaign area that maintain sewer service laterals.

If rodding, jetting, or a root cutting cannot remove the obstruction from the lateral, the lateral will have to be repaired or replaced. It may be possible for the sewer cleaning contractor to televise the sewer lateral using a small inspection camera to determine the exact location where the repair or replacement is required. Once the repair/replacement location is identified a sewer construction contractor will then excavate down to the pipe, remove the broken or obstructed section of pipe, install a new section of pipe, backfill the excavation, and restore the surface back to its original condition. The cost of a sewer lateral repair is dependant on the laterals depth, length, and surface type that the lateral is located under (asphalt street pavement, concrete sidewalk or driveway, grassed yard, etc.) Sewer lateral repairs located under street pavements are typically the most expensive with costs that can exceed \$5,000. There are several sewer construction contractors in Urbana-Champaign area that repair sewer service laterals.