



COUNTY OF NEVADA

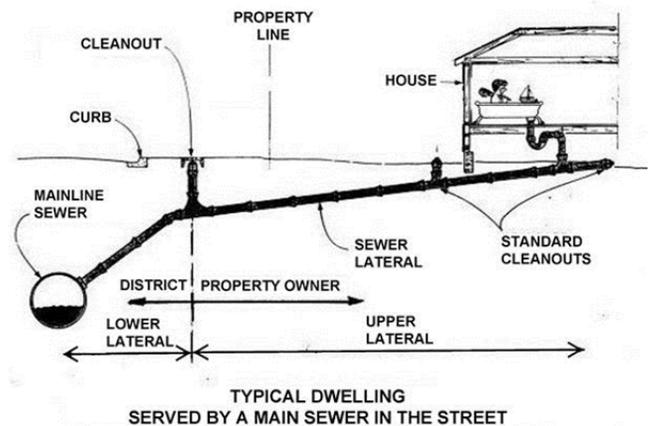
NEVADA COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 1

Dear Property Owner

The Nevada County Sanitation District is responsible for the maintenance of the sewer collection lines located in the roads and other public utility easements within Lake of the Pines and Lake Wildwood. Your home's sewer is connected to the sewer "main" (large pipe often running under the street) via a "lateral" pipe extending from the home, across the property line, and into the main.

Private property owners are responsible for the maintenance of the sewer laterals which run from each individual house to the collection lines in the street. However, the County does maintain the portion of the sewer lateral that runs under the roadway. This ensures that private owners are not responsible for street repairs should there be a problem with that part of the sewer lateral.

To allow maintenance of the lateral in the roadway, the County requires the owner to install a clean out on the sewer lateral at the property line. In most cases, the cleanout was installed when the house was constructed and the majority of houses have cleanouts installed. Without a cleanout, blockages in the lateral are harder to locate and clear which cause sewage to back up into the house resulting in a higher chance of damage and expense to either the District or the homeowner.



To further reduce the risk of blockages in lateral causing sewer backups into houses, the Sanitation District plans to install a sewer release valve (SRV) in the cleanout at the property line at no cost to the property owners. This valve allows water and materials that back up to escape from the SRV rather than flowing into the home. **It is important to note, that the District can only install these SRVs where there is an existing and accessible cleanout.** If a cleanout does not exist, it is highly recommended that the cleanout be located, or that one be installed to ensure that you have this added level of protection to your home.

These release valves will be installed over the next year by the Sanitation District crews. The installation should only take a few minutes and does not require County staff to go onto your property. If you have any questions related to this sewer relief valve project, please give us a call.

Sincerely

Brad Torres
Wastewater Operations Manager
530-265-1555

Additional Steps for Sanitation District Customers to Maintain their Sewer Laterals.

The portion of the sewer lateral between the street and the house is the responsibility of the private property owners. Blockages in this portion of the sewer lateral are the owners' responsibility. Similarly, any damage from sewer backups caused by blockages in this portion of the sewer lateral is also the owners' responsibility. Installation by the owner of an additional sewer relief valve at the cleanout next to the house could reduce the chance of damage to your house.

While having the SRV in place is a great defense against sewer line backups, behavioral prevention is still the most effective protection for your sewer system and home. Sanitary sewer systems are designed to handle three types of waste products: used water, human waste, and toilet paper. To keep you system working properly:

DO NOT pour grease, fats, and oils from cooking down the drain.

DO NOT use the sewer to dispose of food scraps.

DO NOT use the toilet as a wastebasket for garbage or chemicals. These items can kill "good" bacteria used for sewage treatment and cost much more to treat.

DO NOT use the toilet to dispose of Baby, Hand and Personal wipes. These items are troublesome for both the collections system and the treatment plant.

DO: Collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage.

DO: Place food scraps in the garbage for disposal with solid waste, or start a compost pile.

DO: Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste. Disposable diapers and personal hygiene products do not belong in the sewer system.

DO: Avoid planting trees with shallow, spreading root systems near your sewer lateral. Tree roots seek water sources, such as cracked sewer lines. Once the roots have penetrated the line through cracks, the roots can create a dense mat and trap materials.

These simple DOs and DON'Ts can help prevent sewer backups and avoid expensive plumbing and cleanup bills. It will also reduce easily preventable maintenance calls and allow district staff to continue providing the extensive maintenance required by the existing infrastructure.

What to Expect and What to Do

A backup typically occurs in a home's plumbing system or lateral and will not cause damage if you discontinue using the plumbing fixture(s) until the system is cleared. Most slow-moving drains, toilets, or backups can be remedied with drain cleaners or a plunger. If your own methods fail, call Nevada County Sanitation District right away at 530-265-1555. Crews will respond and help to determine if the problem is in your line, or in the District maintained section.

A backflow is much less common and occurs when water or materials come up through a drain, toilet, or other fixture when the home's plumbing system is not being used. This may indicate that the sewer main is blocked and wastewater is backing up into your lateral line and home. Call Nevada County Sanitation District right away at 530-265-1555.

Appropriate personnel will be dispatched to investigate and remedy any problem in the sewer main or lateral maintained by the Sanitary District. The homeowner is responsible for clearing any blockage in the home's plumbing system or maintained lateral and for any resulting flooding damage to the structure. The homeowner is also responsible for damage occurring due to an improperly constructed lateral, including a lack of required backflow prevention devices or illegal hookups. District personnel will provide advice and assistance if a backflow occurs due to an obstruction originating off the property.

IN THE CASE OF A SEWER EMERGENCY:

1. Report immediately to the Nevada County Sanitation District:

Sewer Emergencies or Odors
530-265-1555
24 hours per day, 7 days per week

2. County crews will respond to inspect the sewer lines and advise property owners of next steps at no cost.