

## How to reduce problems

If you smell sewer gas but have no obvious problems, add a gallon of water to your floor drains and plumbing fixtures to insure your traps have water.

Never flush disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, applicators, wet-wipes, rags or other objects that might block or settle in your pipes.

Do not dump gas, grease, oil, antifreeze, paint or other foreign objects down your drains.

If using a garbage disposal, minimize the amount of food and never dispose of cooking oils, greases or coffee grounds.

Take immediate action if you suspect your sewer line is partially plugged.

## Sewer Backups

If you suspect a sewer obstruction or backup and do not know where the blockage is, contact the Village of Somerset Public Works Department before contacting a drain cleaning company. The Village will inspect the sewer main through a manhole to determine if there is a blockage in the sewer main line. If there is no problem in the sewer main, the blockage is in your sewer service pipe between the sewer main and the house. Often times root invasion from mature trees into old sewer services are the cause.

## Sewer Repairs

The property owner is responsible for any repairs on the service line from the home to, including, the connection at the sewer main line.

## Inflow and Infiltration (I&I)

I&I is also a potential cause of sewer backups. I&I refers to clear water getting into the sanitary sewer system. This might occur through cracks or leaks in sewer pipes and manholes or from sump pumps incorrectly connected to the sanitary sewer system. Particularly during large rain events, I&I can cause the sanitary sewer to overflow resulting in sewer backups. Because of the potential for I&I to create system issues, Village ordinance prohibits property owners from disposing of clear water into the sanitary sewer system. This includes water from any roof, surface or ground sump pump, foundation drain, or swimming pool.

## Sump Pumps

If you use a sump pump in your basement, it is illegal to drain the water into the basement sanitary sewer drain or laundry tub. Sump pumps must be discharged outside of the house to the yard.



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## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Sewer Utility**

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**715-247-5555**

Hours: 6:30am-3pm M-F

After hours, weekends or holidays voicemail will direct you to the employee on call in the case of a sewer emergency.

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## Sanitary Sewer Cleaning

The Sanitary sewer lines are cleaned using high performance sewer cleaning equipment. A cleaning nozzle is propelled from one manhole to the next using water under high pressure. The nozzle is then pulled back to the starting manhole. As the nozzle is pulled back, water scours the inside of the sanitary sewer pipe. Any debris in the pipe is pulled back with the water. The debris is removed from the manhole with a vacuum unit. If roots are found, they are cut with a root cutter. This process is repeated on every sewer line cleaned. Jetting (flushing sewer lines) is done typically every four years, trouble areas will be cleaned one to two times per year. This routine maintenance helps to prevent future blockages and back-ups and keeps our main sewer lines flowing consistently.



## What to expect if you live in the cleaning area.

A sanitary sewer jet-cleaning machine uses high-pressure water to clean the sanitary sewer. This high water pressure may affect your home's sanitary sewer plumbing. You may experience gurgling or bubbling water in the toilet bowl. The water that could come from this type of incident is from the bowl itself. The common causes of air venting into homes during sanitary sewer cleaning are: air movement from normal cleaning operations, the use of higher pressure needed when cleaning sanitary sewer lines that have a steep slope, sewer lines running close to the building, a plugged roof vent, and the size and complexity of the home's sewer line and ventilation system. **To minimize water splashing out of your toilet bowl, make it a habit to keep the lid down.** You may smell sewer gas from your basement floor drains. If this does occur, flush your toilet and pour water into your floor drains. Sanitary sewer cleaning does not damage your sewer system. The water that comes out is the water that is normally in the homes system (drain traps), not the water from the sanitary sewer in the street.

## What homeowners can do to help

The sanitary sewer system begins with the plumbing fixtures inside your house. All of the drains from the sinks, tubs, showers and toilets are piped to the sewer service that exits your house and connects to the sewer main under the street. Each drain has a 'trap' and a vent pipe that prevent sewer gases and odors from entering the house.

Some basic trouble-shooting might help you when a drain backs up. If only one section of plumbing or fixture doesn't drain, it is usually a problem within the house. However, if no drains work, or the entire system drains slowly, or the worst-case scenario occurs – wastewater comes back up through the basement floor drain, the problem is probably outside of the house in the sewer service or the sewer main.

