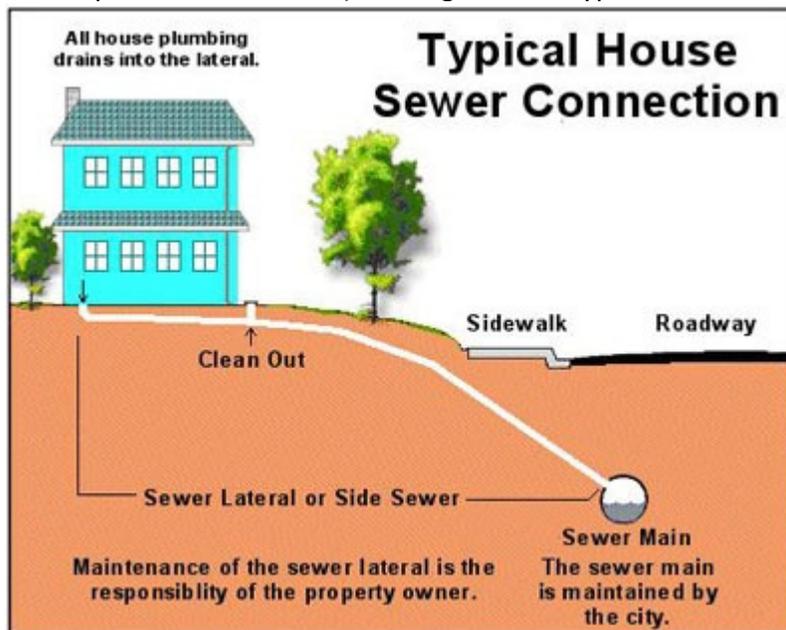


Maintenance of Sewer Laterals

Sewer Laterals are the pipes that connect your building's private sewer connections to the City's sewer main. Old and leaking sewer laterals are a major source of groundwater infiltration that annually send millions of gallons of rainwater to our City's sewer treatment plant and lead to higher monthly sewer rates. If your sewer lateral becomes blocked, it can cause sewer backups that inflict costly damage to your building and property.

Similar to most Cities, the private property owner has the responsibility to maintain the sewer lateral to the point where it connects with the City's public sewer main (Calistoga Municipal Code 13.08.220). A diagram of a typical sewer lateral is shown below.



Some things you may do to minimize the chances of a sewer backup are as follows:

- Don't pour fats, oils, and grease from cooking down the drain or use the sewer to dispose of food scraps.
- Don't plant trees near your sewer lateral. The roots can infiltrate the sewer pipe and create a dense mat to trap materials.
- Don't connect drains, downspouts, or sump pumps to the sewer. It's illegal and can cause backups of the sewer main.
- Have your sewer lateral video inspected and cleaned regularly by a licensed plumber or contractor.

The City has a partial cost match policy for the replacement of the sewer lateral section that is in the public right-of-way, up to a maximum reimbursement of \$1,500 for a single family residence. If you have interest in this sewer lateral replacement cost match, please contact the Public Works Department at 942-2828.