

Be Sewer Smart!



Sewer backups and backflows — and the damage they cause — are a major cause of inconvenience and expense for homeowners and communities. This brochure provides information about preventing backflows, what to do if one occurs, and how you can protect yourself if a backflow does occur.

Protect Your Property Investment

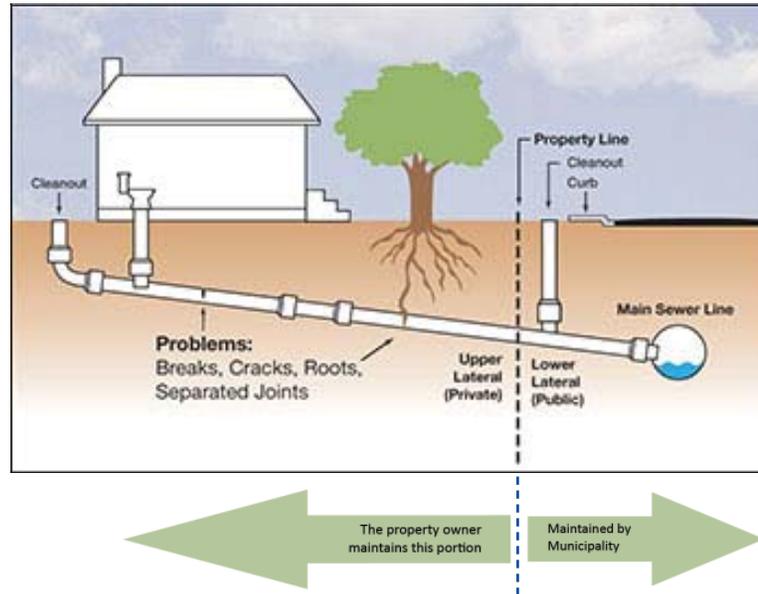
If your home or business is connected to a sewer system, there is the potential for backflow or a backup. Property owners are responsible for the integrity of internal plumbing and lateral pipes on their property.

Sewer lines can become blocked due to roots, grease build up or debris in the pipes. When this occurs, wastewater flow is blocked and may backup toward the first possible outlet.

Is Your Home at Risk?

People who live in hilly areas, especially those on the downside of a street are most at risk. Your home is at risk if, at its lowest level, your home is not at least one foot above the nearest upstream manhole of the sewer main.

See Reverse for **Sewer Smart** tips



Backflow Prevention Devices (BPD)

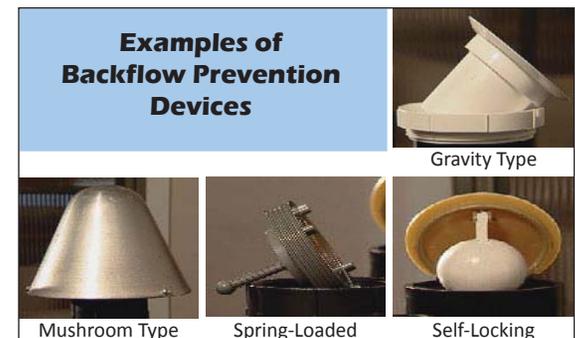
Wastewater flows from a building through a lateral sewer line that connects to a main sewer line. If a backup occurs, a properly installed Backflow Prevention Device (BPD) automatically opens up, allowing the overflow to occur outside the home or business, rather than inside the structure.

If you do not already have a BPD and are at risk, you should consider installing one as soon as possible. Be sure to use a professional licensed plumber to install this equipment. Examples of devices can be found to the right.

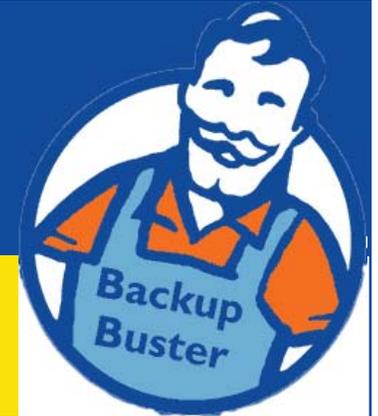
Consider Sewer Backup Coverage

Property owners should also consider adding sewer backup coverage to their property insurance policy. This coverage is not automatically included. In most cases, a special endorsement/rider to the policy may be required. The added premium for this coverage is a fraction of what it would cost to clean up from a serious sewer backup. Contact your insurance agent for details.

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Protect Your Home from Sewer Backups!



A guide to help determine if you are at risk of a potential backup and precautions to take to minimize your loss exposure.

Sewer Smart Tips

By following these simple sewer smart tips, you can keep your sewer working properly, help prevent backups, and avoid expensive plumbing and clean up bills.

- DO:** Collect grease in a container and throw it in the garbage can.
- DO:** Put food scraps in your compost bin or garbage for disposal as solid waste.
- DO:** Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of items such as disposable diapers and personal hygiene products.
- DO:** Install a Backflow Prevention Device (BPD) if you are at risk of backups.
- DON'T:** Pour grease, fats, and oils from cooking down the drain.
- DON'T:** Use the sewer as a wastebasket for garbage or chemicals. These items can kill the “good” bacteria use for sewage treatment, increase treatment costs and potentially pass through treatment to cause environmental damage.
- DON'T:** Plant trees with shallow, spreading roots near your sewer lateral.

When a Sewer Backup Occurs ...

Contact **LOWER POTTSBORO TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY** as soon as possible:

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Authority crews will locate the blockage and if it is located in the public portion of the sewer, they will remove it. If the blockage is determined to be in the private property section of the sewer, the property owner will be responsible for retaining, at their own expense, a licensed plumbing contractor to make repairs.

Crews are in your neighborhood on an ongoing basis performing inspections and maintenance tasks to keep sewers flowing smoothly.

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