

## What is a sewer backup?

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Sewer backups occur when a blockage exists in the sewer main or service line, forcing sewage back into a structure.

Backups can also occur when storm drainages are connected to sanitary sewer lines. During rain events, water can be channeled to sewers and overload the system. EPA regulations have outlawed such connections.

## Who is responsible?

The district maintains the sewer mains. However, each homeowner pays the cost to maintain the district's entire collection system through their sewer access fees and special benefit assessment. The homeowner is responsible for maintaining their service line (i.e., line running from the main to your home).

## What to do if you suspect a sewer backup.

1. **Immediately call the district at 765-246-6752.** By leaving a message with your name, location, phone number, and a description of the problem, a beeper alarm will go out to the district's staff on call. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.
2. **Do not run any water** down the drain or flush the toilet.
3. **Avoid skin contact** with the sewage. It contains many disease-causing organisms.

### CLEAR CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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## CLEAR CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



## Sewer Backups

What every homeowner should know!



## Causes

**Grease** poured down drains can solidify and cause blockages.



Don't dump grease down the drain!

**Tree and shrub roots** can infiltrate sewer pipes, diminishing flow capacity and trapping debris. Water-loving trees such as elms, willows, and cottonwoods are more prone to grow into sewer lines as their roots seek moisture through pipe joints.



Tree roots can cause sewer backups.

**Bulky items** that do not deteriorate quickly like paper towels, plastic bags, diapers, and washcloths can clog pipes and cause sewer backups.



## Prepare

### Contact your insurance company

Every property owner should contact their insurance company to see if they are covered for sewer backups. If not, consider purchasing additional coverage. Buildings with basements, drains, or plumbing fixtures are vulnerable to sewer backups.

### Know the location of your service line.

### Install a sewer backflow preventer (a.k.a. check valve)

The district strongly recommends installing and maintaining this device on your service line. This device will prevent backups originating from your neighbors or the main line, but will not prevent backups from your own service line.



## Prevent

- Dispose of grease in a container, allow it to harden, and put it in the garbage.
- Dispose of vegetable and meat scraps, butter, rice, salad dressing, and other food items in the garbage or compost bin instead of the garbage disposal.
- Don't flush bulky items that do not deteriorate quickly. These **products are damaging sewer pipes and sewer pumps costing a lot of money to repair.**
- **Please dispose of *all* toilet cleaner wands in the trash.**

No paper towels of any type



No disinfecting wipes of any type



No baby wipes of any type



No Swiffer products of any type

