Trial Program

One-year Trial Program
July 2018 – July 2019

- Protect your home and possessions from sewerage back up
- Grant for eligible residents to reduce sanitary lateral replacement cost

Barrie property owners are eligible for a grant from the City for costs incurred for the replacement or repair of a failed sewer lateral (unless the cause of the blockage is an object introduced to the sewer lateral from the building), where the blockage or failure occurs in the portion of the sewer lateral between the property line to the sewer main (under City property) and the repair or replacement has been undertaken by the City of Barrie.

Contact Us

Still have questions?
Call us to help determine your specific situation.
Monday–Friday, 8am–5pm
After-hours, press zero for emergency assistance; appropriate on-call staff may assist you.

Service Barrie
70 Collier Street, Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5
(705) 739-4242
servicebarrie@barrie.ca

For more information on drains, sewers, and flooding please visit barrie.ca/sewers.
Why can’t the City pay for the entire cost of this work?

The property owner is responsible for the sewer pipe from inside the house to the main sewer. The City wants to make private sanitary lateral replacement affordable by offering this grant, while ensuring that overall costs are kept under control. If the City paid full replacement cost on behalf of property owners, taxes would increase for everyone.

Should I have the other sections of my sewer replaced?

If a qualified plumber or drainage contractor has inspected your building sewer pipe and the pipe has deteriorated or is becoming blocked, you may wish to hire a contractor to replace it. The City of Barrie can only replace the private sewer lateral and you are responsible to hire and pay for the cost of replacing the building sewer portion of the pipe.

Pipes deteriorate with age

Like everything else, over time sewer pipes can break down and fail. Sometimes the sanitary lateral becomes blocked by tree roots, soil or grease, or it may just deteriorate due to age or material wear. A blocked or failed sanitary lateral can back up wastewater into your basement, damage your property and also be a health hazard.

How to Receive this Grant:

1. The property owner is required to contact a plumber to investigate the cause and location of the issue.

2. If the property owner is seeking reimbursement from the City for repair or replacement costs, the homeowner is required to provide a video to the City. Most plumbing contractors can provide this video service.

3. City staff will review the video to confirm the presence of a blockage/failure location.
   - If determined that the blockage/failure is under City property and caused by structural issues, the City would reimburse up to $500 for the investigation/video.
   - If determined that the blockage/failure was between the property line and the sewer main, the City would coordinate the necessary repairs through a contractor. A grant would be provided to the property owner for the cost of the investigation/video up to $500, plus the cost of the associated work.

4. If the blockage or failure is between the property line and the building, the homeowner is responsible for the costs including the investigation/video inspection and a grant would not be provided to the property owner by the City.

5. Property owners who undertake or organize their own sewer lateral replacement are not eligible for a grant.

As a property owner, you are responsible for the sanitary sewer lateral

When wastewater from your sinks or toilets leaves your house through your internal plumbing, it flows through a sanitary sewer lateral to reach the City’s main pipe. As a property owner, you are responsible for the maintenance and repair of both of these sections of pipe.