

What is a Sanitary Lateral and what am I responsible for?

A sanitary lateral is an underground pipe outside of your home that carries wastewater from your sinks, toilets, laundry, showers, etc. to the City's sanitary sewer mains. If not cared for properly it can lead to sewage coming back into the house.

As a property owner, you are responsible for proper use of the sanitary lateral and for items that go down the drains. Property Owners are responsible for the maintenance and cost to repair the pipe on both the private and City side, if misuse of the sanitary lateral is determined to be the cause for the blockage.

Still have questions?

Call us to help determine your specific situation.

Service Barrie

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
70 Collier Street, Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

(705) 726-4242

servicebarrie@barrie.ca

For more information on drains, sewers please visit **barrie.ca/sewers**.

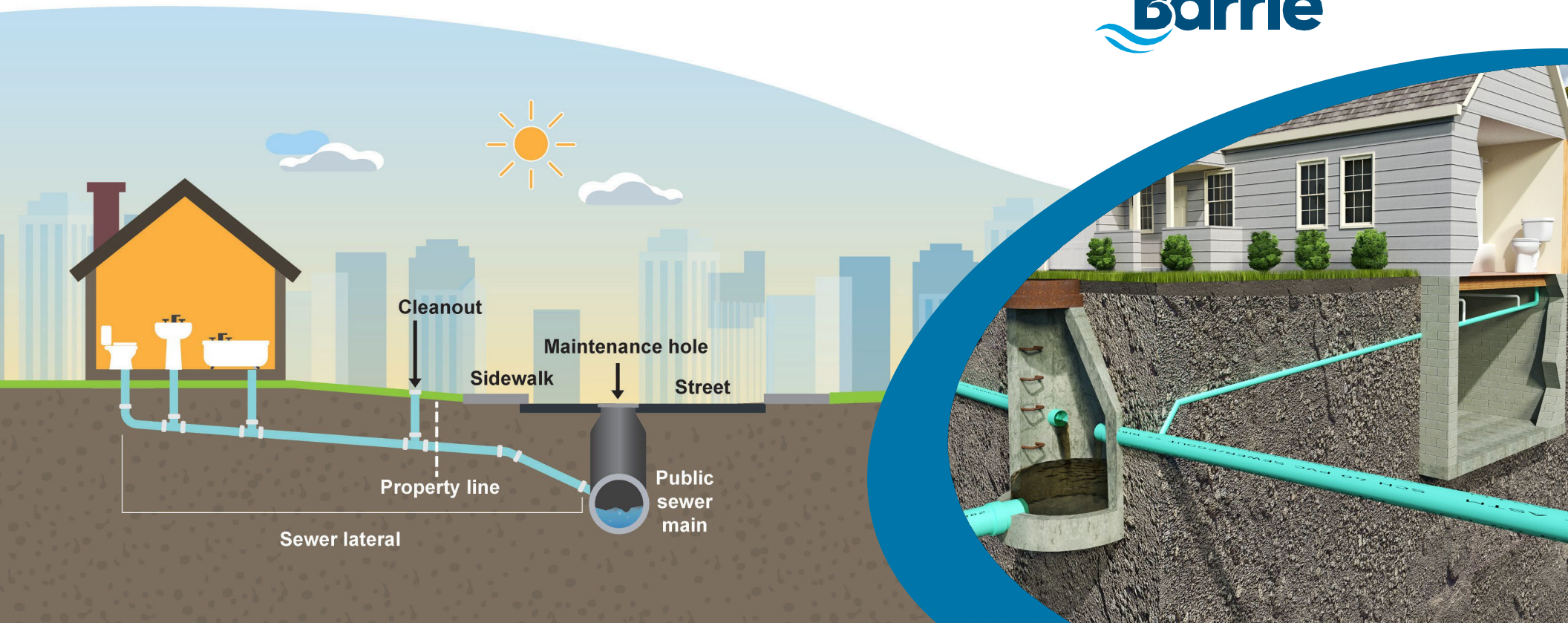
Sewer Use By-Law as amended

Sanitary Sewer Lateral

What you need to know about your sanitary lateral



Barrie



Causes of sewer backups

Sewer backups can occur because of a few different issues

- Grease and food that is poured down the kitchen sink or toilet. These materials can build up in the pipes and restrict the flow.
- Tree roots can infiltrate the sanitary lateral blocking the flow of wastewater to sewer main.
- Settling of pipes can occur over time causing a break or ponding in the sanitary lateral.
- Sink grinders can cause sanitary blockages, even though the food is ground into small particles, these particles can still build up inside the pipes.

How do I know my lateral is blocked and not an internal plumbing issue?

If sewage or water is coming up from the lowest fixture like a laundry tub or basement floor drain the issue is most likely the sanitary lateral. If only one fixture is not draining, it is likely an internal blockage inside the house. The property owner is recommended to call a plumber.

Common causes of sewer line problems



What to do if you are experiencing a sewer backup

1. The property owner calls a licensed plumber to clear the blockage and attempt to restore flow in the sanitary lateral.
2. The plumber or the property owner calls On1Call for a Sewer Safety Inspection. 1-800-400-2255 This is a free service offered by Enbridge to ensure a gas line does not intersect the sanitary lateral.

Ontarioonecall.ca/sewer-safety-inspection

3. Once the blockage is clear, a video inspection of the sanitary lateral should be taken to determine the cause of the blockage.
4. If the blockage or failure is between the property line and the house, the property owner is responsible for all repair costs including the plumbing contractor services.
5. If the property owner or plumber suspects the blockage or failure is between the property line and the sanitary main, call Service Barrie. *A copy of the video inspection will be needed for City staff to review.

*If structural failure of the lateral is confirmed to be on City side of the property, the City will reimburse plumbing costs up to \$500. The City will coordinate the repair or replacement of the sanitary lateral as required.



Don't flush me!

Food scraps

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Flushable wipes

Paper towels, tissues and napkins

Menstrual products or condoms

Diapers and baby wipes

Household chemicals

Medication

Paint or stains

Dental floss

Solid garbage

Sand or earth



FOG built up inside a sanitary lateral.