

Brighton Sewer Department Sewer Use Information

The Wastewater Collection System is an intricate composition of underground pipelines and pump stations which collects storm water and wastewater from Brighton residents and businesses to various Water Pollution Control Plants which are operated by Monroe County Pure Waters.

The Brighton Sewer Department maintains the main lines of the system. Many of these lines are in the street. The line connecting the building with the main line is the lateral line. It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain, clean and repair the lateral line.

Emergencies

To report a sewer or flooding emergency, call (585) 784-5282. Phones are answered day and night and, in most cases, homeowners can expect a prompt response. During widespread emergencies (such as widespread flooding), please call 911 to report an emergency.

What IS an emergency?

- Sewage or storm water overflowing from a manhole or pipe.
- Visibly broken or damaged pipe or access manhole.
- Cover missing from a manhole.
- Alarm sounding/ light flashing at a wastewater pumping station.
- Pipe damaged while digging.
- Backups in floor drains or plumbing fixtures *located on basement level.*

What IS NOT an emergency?

- Slow-draining bathtub or sinks (except for fixtures located on basement level). This is usually caused by blockage in the fixture drains or the "lateral" pipe on private property, and is the owner's responsibility - call a plumber for assistance.
- Water seen leaking from a potable water (drinking water) supply pipe.

If your situation is not a wastewater emergency as listed above, call a licensed plumber for assistance.



Town of Brighton Sewer Department
1941 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14610
(585) 784-5282

What Is a Sanitary Sewer?

A sanitary sewer is a pipe located in the street that is designed solely to transport wastewater from sanitary fixtures inside your house or place of business.

What is a Storm Sewer?

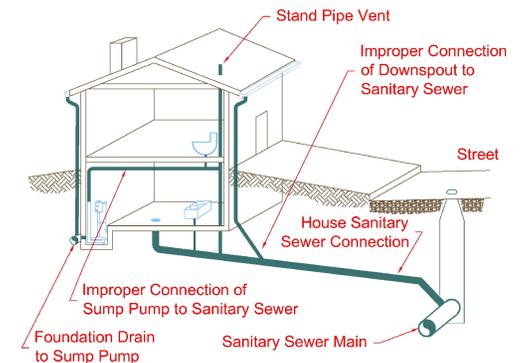
A storm sewer is a pipe located in the street that is designed to carry storm-related water runoff. Storm sewers are normally much larger than sanitary sewers because they are designed to carry much larger amounts of flow.

What is an Improper Connection?

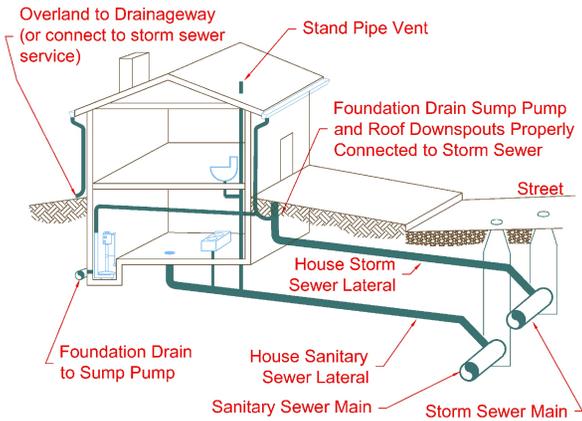
As defined by Town Code, an improper connection is a connection that permits extraneous storm-related water (water from sources other than sanitary fixtures) to enter the sanitary sewer system. That extraneous storm-related water is water that should either be going to the storm sewer or allowed to soak into the ground without entering the sanitary sewer.

What Are the Different Types of Improper Connections?

Improper connections include connections of downspouts, sump pumps, footing tiles, drains from window wells and drains from driveways to the sanitary sewer service. A few types of improper connections are shown in the diagram below:



Where Should the Storm Drainage Water from Downspouts, Sump Pumps and/or Other Drain Appurtenances Be Directed If It Cannot Be Discharged Into the Sanitary Sewer?



Modern subdivision construction standards call for water from sump pumps, downspouts and area drains to be diverted to storm sewers or above ground drainage ditches as shown above.

Why is it Important for Everyone to Remove Improper Connections?

Removal of improper connections will significantly reduce the flow of extraneous storm-related water to the sanitary sewer system. As a result, the possibilities of basement flooding due to surcharged sanitary sewers are reduced, and the sewer system can reduce its costs and add more customers, which will keep everyone's rates lower.

How can Surcharged Sanitary Sewers Cause Basement Flooding?

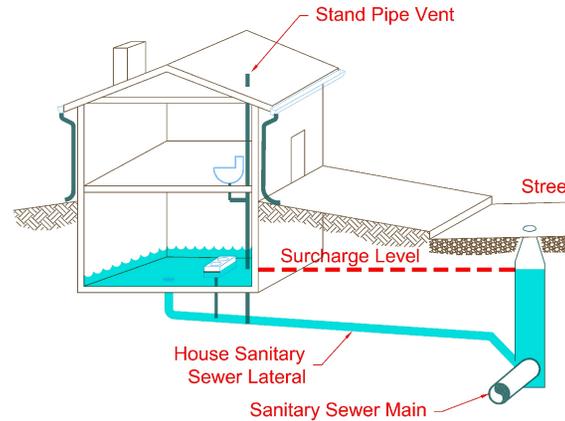
A surcharged sewer flows at a level greater than the "normal" level. As shown below, if the home has sanitary fixtures of floor drains at an elevation below the surcharge level, basement flooding can occur.



FLOOR DRAIN WITH BALL VALVE

We recommend that homeowners install a

plug or screw-cap on the floor drain when not in use, to avoid potential backups.



Do Improper Connections Really Contribute Large Amounts of Extraneous Water to the Sanitary Sewer System?

Yes. For example, an eight-inch sanitary sewer can handle domestic wastewater flow from up to 465 homes; however, *it takes only twelve sump pumps operating at full capacity to overload an eight-inch sanitary sewer.*

I've Never Had Basement Flooding Due to a Surcharged Sewer: Why Should I Remove Improper Connections?

Many residents do not have basement flooding due to surcharged sewers; however, if your plumbing pumps or drains storm-related water into the sanitary sewer, it may be the cause of flooding in your neighbors basement.

How does the Town of Brighton Identify Improper Connections?

THIS IS WHERE YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION IS NEEDED:

In order for the Town to identify improper connections to the system, we must inspect the interior of your homes and buildings. We ask for your cooperation in allowing the

Sewer Department to inspect your yard, basement and crawl space to observe the building drainage facilities. This can be simply arranged by contacting the Brighton Sewer Department at 784-5282 for appointment scheduling.

All Town employees will display proper identification including picture and identification number. If you have any questions about the identity of the employee, please call 784-5282.

If I Have an Improper Connection, How Do I Correct It?

If an improper connection is identified in your home, you will be notified and advised of the type of improper connection. It is suggested that you consult a licensed plumber to determine the most appropriate method of removing a specific improper connection. If you have further questions, please call the Sewer Department to set up a consultation or inspection of your home.