

Keeping it Healthy

It is never too late to start living healthy. Not just for you and your family, but for your sewer line too.

Did you know that Fat, Oil, and Grease (F.O.G.) is the leading cause of sewer backups?

You can help prevent backups by maintaining your sewer line. Here are some helpful tips:

- **Never** pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- **Scrape** grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills, and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal.
- **Pour** fats, oils, and grease into a container such as an empty jar or coffee can. Once the materials have cooled and solidified and the container is full, secure the lid and place it in the trash.
- **Do not** put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.
- **Communicate** with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in your sewer system and how to keep it out. The solution starts right at home with your actions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or comments regarding this Annual Report:

Call (626) 300-3399 or

Visit our website at www.dpw.lacounty.gov/smd/smd

Please send all inquiries to:

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Sewer Maintenance Division

P.O. Box 1475

Alhambra, CA 91802-1475

Who Should I Call?

If you are not sure whether it is our line or yours that is causing the sewer backup, you can call our Help Line and we will check it out for you.

1-800-675-HELP (4357)

Keep the Money in Your Wallet Not the Sewer

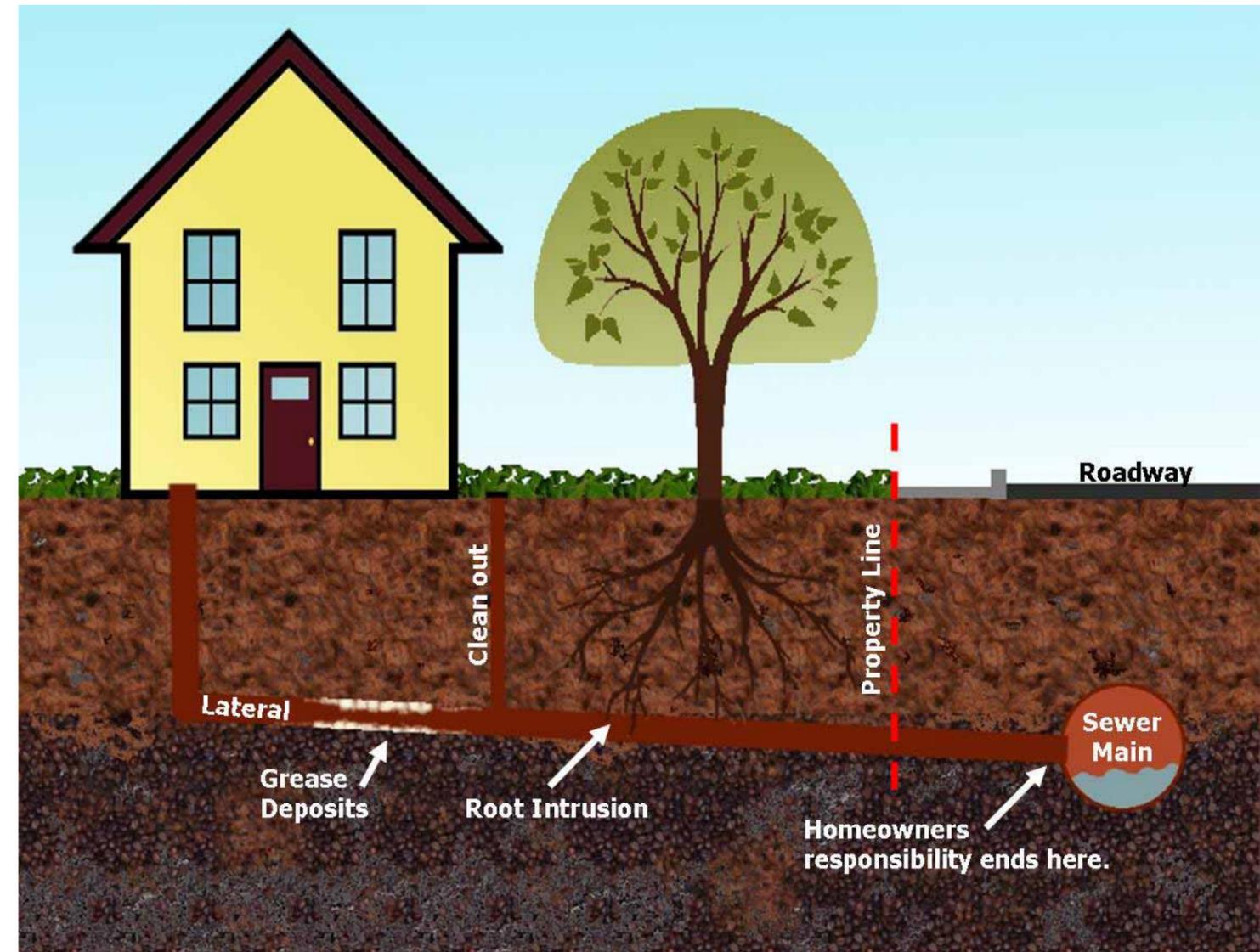
Another sneaky culprit that can damage your sewer line, also called a lateral connection, are tree roots. It is easy to forget about tree roots since they are out of sight thus out of mind.

Tree-root intrusion can be the most expensive cause for sewer maintenance for homeowners; therefore, prevention is the best method.

To prevent tree roots from getting into your sewer line:

- Do not plant any trees or hedges near your sewer line
- Remove trees or hedges that are close to your sewer line
- Regular maintenance of your sewer line

Once roots are in your lateral they will likely cause a blockage. The best way to prevent this is to schedule regular cleaning of your sewer lateral. The common method of removing roots from sanitary sewer service pipes involves the use of augers, root saws, or high-pressure flushers. It is also important to keep your sewer lateral structurally sound (i.e., free of cracks, fractures, or breaks). Any structural fault can allow roots easy access into your sewer lateral. You may wish to hire a plumber to conduct a video inspection of your sewer lateral to determine its condition and if any repairs are needed. Consult your local plumber for more details.



Notice of Violation Letters

Have you received a notice indicating we found roots or other debris in your home lateral sewer line?

Through routine maintenance activities or our Condition Assessment Program Closed-Circuit Television Inspection Project, we find many sewer lateral connections with roots or debris in the lateral line that will potentially be impacting the main sewer line. The County Code below indicates it is the homeowners responsibility to maintain their connection to the sewer line. Please follow the actions requested on the letter to help prevent a sewer backup into your home or a sewer backup/overflow in the main sewer line. A sample of this letter is available for your review on our website.

County Code 20.24.080 Maintenance of Sewer Laterals states:

All house laterals, industrial connection sewers, septic tank outlet connections to STEP system, and appurtenances thereto existing as of January 23, 1953, or thereafter constructed, shall be maintained by the owner of the property served in a safe and sanitary condition, and all devices or safeguards which are required by this Division 2 for the operation thereof shall be maintained in good working order.