

How Can I Find My Sewer Lateral?

A lateral map indicating the approximate location of your sewer lateral will generally be included with your Notice to Repair. If you have not received one, a copy of this map can be obtained from the Engineering Dept.

How Do I Find a Contractor?

The City may not legally recommend a specific contractor(s). However, you can obtain a list of contractors licensed to do business in the City. Local contractors can also be found in the yellow pages under "Plumbing", "Contractors", or "Septic". It is recommended you obtain at least 3 to 4 quotes for a price comparison.

What Are My Repair Options?

The simplest and most common form of repair is the open-cut method. This method involves cutting a trench, removing the old pipe, and installing new pipe per current Oregon Plumbing Code. Other options are more specialized, such as cured-in-place pipe liner or pipe bursting.

How Much Will These Repairs Cost Me?

For the open-cut method, if you dig the trench and replace your lateral yourself the cost can be as low as \$10 per foot. Hiring a contractor to do the work can sometimes cost over \$50 per foot.

What Can I Do If I Can't Afford The Repairs?

The City offers some financial assistance for eligible persons. To find out if you are eligible for this assistance contact the Lateral Rehabilitation Program Coordinator at (503) 397-6272. If you are not eligible, your sewer lateral repairs may have to be financed privately through your financial institution.

Tips for Protecting Your Property and Our Environment

- Repair and maintain your sewer lateral to meet City of St. Helens regulations.
- Remember – you own your sewer lateral from your house to wherever your lateral connects to the sewer main.
- Never connect a downspout, sump pump or other stormwater drain to your sanitary sewer lateral.
- Don't build structures like sheds or garages over your sewer lateral.
- If you don't have a cleanout, consider installing one. And if you do have a cleanout, remember to keep your cleanout cap on and debris out!



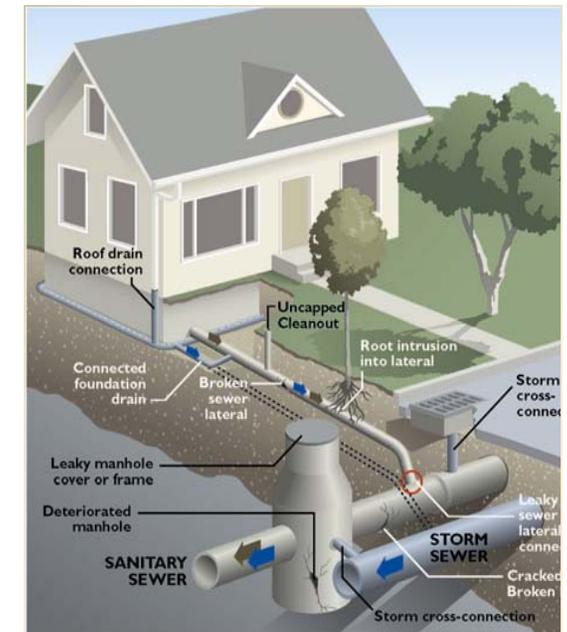
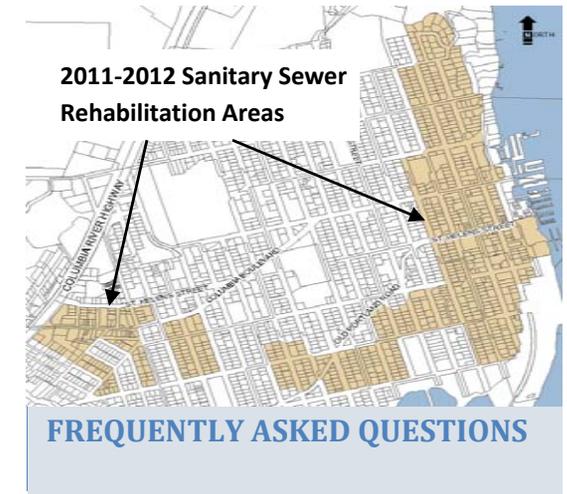
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Private Sanitary Sewer Lateral Repairs in the City of St. Helens, Oregon

Your sewer lateral is your property – from your home’s plumbing to your connection to the City of St. Helens sewer main. Maintaining your sewer lateral helps protect you, your neighbors, and our environment.

The Property Owner’s Responsibility

If you own your own home, you also own the underground pipe that connects your house to the sanitary sewer main starting from your home’s internal plumbing to its connection to the mainline. Under City of St. Helens regulations, you are responsible for the construction, installation, maintenance, and repair of the full length of your sewer lateral from your house to the sewer main even if your lateral extends beyond your property line.

What is a Sanitary Sewer Lateral?

A sanitary sewer lateral is the pipe that connects the plumbing of your home or business to the public sanitary sewer mainline. Your lateral carries sewage waste from your house to the public sewer.

Why Am I Being Required To Fix My Sewer Lateral Now?

Federal and State regulators are requiring the City to protect the waterways by keeping stormwater out of the sanitary sewer system. Stormwater can overload the wastewater system and cause overflows. Part of this process involves evaluating the condition of the laterals connected to sewer main. Studies show that

40% of the stormwater infiltrating the wastewater system comes from private laterals through leaks, cracks, deteriorated piping, and stormwater connections. If you have received a Notice to Repair your sewer lateral, this means your lateral failed the minimum requirements.

What Types of Deficiencies Are Sewer Laterals Inspected For?

Laterals are inspected for offset joints, gaps and breaks in the pipe, fractures, cracks, excessive roots infiltration, blockages, and Orangeburg pipe, a tar-paper based pipe used in the 1970s which has diminishing structural integrity and is frequently prone to tearing, severe deformation, and collapse.

Do I Have To Replace My Whole Pipe?

Lateral repairs are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The extent of pipe to be replaced or repaired is based on the type of deficiencies found, the location of the deficiencies, and the quantity of deficiencies. Some laterals require the rehabilitation of only five feet of pipe; others may require over fifty feet.

Do I Really Have to Repair My Sewer Under the City Street?

Property owners are being required to replace their lateral only up to the “Edge of Continuous Street Improvement”. As a service to the public and in an effort to preserve the integrity of City’s infrastructure, the City will repair deficient laterals in the “Edge of Continuous Street Improvement”.

What is the “Edge of Continuous Street Improvement”?

The “edge of continuous street improvement” indicates the extent of the City improvements which border your property such as a continuous section of pavement, curb, and/or sidewalk. Detached improvements, such as a sidewalk that is separated from the pavement or curb by more than three feet,

are not considered to be part of the continuous street improvements. Gravel roads and gravel public right-of-ways are not considered improvements.

Notification and Enforcement of Sanitary Sewer Lateral Repairs

If your lateral is defective, the City will notify you with a Notice to Repair your Sanitary Sewer Lateral. This will include a description of the defect(s), what to do, and other useful information.

Per City Policy, you will have 120 days from the date of your Notice in which to fix your sewer lateral. If you fail to correct the deficiencies in your sewer in this time frame, the City reserves the right to issue citations and fines of up to a maximum of \$2,000 per day until the deficiencies have been corrected.

Do I Need a Permit to Repair My Sewer?

The City of St. Helens Building Inspector must inspect and approve all sewer lateral repairs. This is to ensure the integrity of the public sanitary sewer system. A permit is required before starting any sewer repairs. Permits can be obtained from the Building Department located on the first floor of City Hall at 265 Strand St.

How Can I Know If My Sewer Really Is Defective?

You can view the inspection video of your sewer at the Engineering Department located on the second floor of City Hall at 265 Strand St. Contact the Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation Coordinator at (503) 397-6272