



CITY OF SAUSALITO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION
420 LITHO STREET
SAUSALITO, CA. 94965
415-289-4112 (fax) 415-339-2256
www.ci.sausalito.ca.us

Being Sewer and Storm Water Smart In the City of Sausalito

Hello my name is Pat Guasco and I am The City of Sausalito Sewer System Coordinator. My duties include:

- Creating sewer maintenance work plans
- Updating the Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) database
- Updating the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (STOPPP)
- Inspecting sanitary sewer system construction

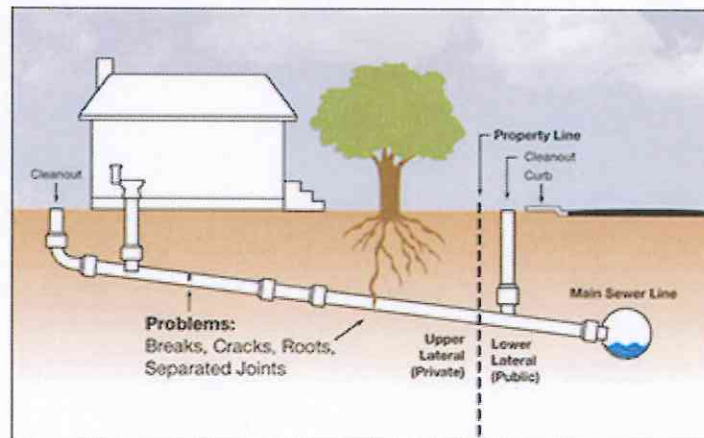
Additionally a large portion of my time is spent constructively collaborating with:

- The City of Sausalito Ratepayers
- Local Utilities, Cities and Special Districts
- County of Marin Agencies
- Regional Agencies
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies

I welcome all residents, businesses and property owners in the City of Sausalito to learn more about two of your valuable assets...Sewer and Storm Water Systems.

Sewer backups & backflows, and the damage they inflict, represent a major cause of inconvenience and loss for homeowners and communities around the San Francisco Bay. The Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) initiated the Be Sewer Smart program and with Bay area cities, sanitary districts and other partners works to educate the public on how backflows can be prevented. (Sewer Smart, 07)

Typical Single Family Sewer Lateral and Public Sewer Configuration



Sewer Smart, 07

Special Note: In the City of Sausalito the property owner is responsible for the entire sewer lateral. Example: From the rear cleanout to the sewer lateral final destination connection at the Main Sewer Line



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Learn about the two types of sewers in your home

1. Storm sewer

- Collects storm water from street drains and house gutters
- Leads eventually to the Bay

Storm Sewer Discharge Examples:

Illicit Discharge—some examples include:

- Sewage
- Radiator Fluid
- Soap
- Garbage
- Debris
- Paint
- Concrete
- Solvents
- Batteries

Please report illicit discharges. If you see debris or any other waste such as concrete runoff, motor oil, or paint get into gutters, catch basins, any other storm drainage structures or into the river, PLEASE call the City of Sausalito Public Works Department as soon as possible. In addition, please remember that everything that flows into the storm drain system goes untreated directly to our creeks, rivers, lakes, and oceans!

2. Sanitary sewer

- Carries wastewater (sewage)
- Connected to your home's plumbing (toilets, sinks, tubs, laundry)
- Leads to a sewage treatment plant

Your home's sewer lateral is connected to the public sanitary sewer **main** (large pipe often running under the street) via a **lateral** pipe extending from the home (upper lateral), across the property line (lower lateral), and then into the main.



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The cleanout:

- Allows you to access the lateral to clear blockages in your sewer line. To get to your cleanout, look for the lid -- a round or square plate labeled "sewer" -- near the property, street, or sidewalk in front of your home. In some cases, a cleanout may be located in the yard near your home or in your backyard, if the sewer main runs behind the house.
- In Sausalito homeowners must maintain the entire lateral.

Sewer Video Requirements:

- Major Remodels \$50,000 upgrade cost requires a sewer video inspection prior to the issue of any permits
- When a property is listed for sale a sewer video inspection is required.

Find out more about **[Sewer Smart Tips for preventing backflows.](#)**

Sewer Smart Program. <http://sewersmart.org/connection.html>).



If your home was built or remodeled after 1962, local building codes require that your sewer system has a cleanout and a **backflow prevention device** (also called a sewer relief device).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call, write or email me.

Very Truly Yours,

Patrick A. Guasco

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ATTENTION BUSINESSES, PROPERTY OWNERS, VISITORS AND CLEAN WATER AFICIONADO'S

You May Not See It BUT. . . .

Though you may not know it and you may not see it, we ALL live within a mile or two of a creek! Some creeks run underground and people mistakenly think their actions don't cause an impact.

Whenever a cigarette butt is tossed from a car window, a cup and straw are left on a street, or water runs off your sidewalk and lawn taking oil and fertilizers with it, you can be contributing to pollution in our creeks since everything eventually finds its way to a storm drain. In Marin – as in most other counties – storm drains flow directly to local creeks, the Bay or Ocean!

Marin has over 13,000 storm drains! That's a lot of avenues for pollution to reach our local waterways!

So what can You do to protect our local creeks? Start with the following:

1. If you need a product to address a pest problem, use the least toxic product available. For a list, go to www.OurWaterOurWorld.org
2. For your landscape needs, consider hiring a professional trained in eco-friendly practices. Go to www.bayfriendly.org for a list of landscapers that have attended a 20-hour course in Bay-Friendly Landscaping.
3. If you have a structural pest problem, consider hiring a pest control operator certified in eco-friendly practices. Contact www.ecowisecertified.com
4. Avoid pesticide products that have an active ingredient (look at the front of the product label) that ends in "thrin". They belong to a class of pesticides called pyrethroids and are a threat to water quality. (The exception to this rule is pyrethrin – produced naturally from the chrysanthemum flower.)
5. Watch out for the number one cause of pollution in Marin Creeks – sediment! Contributing factors include construction, vegetation removal, trail alterations, grading of hillsides and even allowing pets to romp in the creeks! Establishing buffer zones near creeks are very important to keeping excess sediment out of creeks. If you're planning a project near a creek and have concerns about buffer zones, contact the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program at 499-6528 or visit www.mcstoppp.org
6. Join a local creek group. In Larkspur, that would be Friends of Corte Madera Creek at www.friendsofcortemaderacreek.org



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Be Sewer Smart!

What to do if you have a backup or backflow
Buster, I have a backup or backflow problem!

What do I do?!

Backup:

A backup usually will not cause damage if you stop using the backed-up sink, tub or toilet until the system is cleared. Most backups can be cleared with drain cleaners or a plunger. If these methods fail, call a plumber. If the plumber finds out that the problem is not in your sewer line, call your local sewer or sanitation district, located in the phone book under Government listings for wastewater utility services.

Backflow:

A backflow may mean that the city main is blocked and wastewater is backing up into your lateral line and home. If you experience a backflow, call your local sewer or sanitation district *immediately*.

Sewer or sanitation district responsibilities:

A representative will be sent out to investigate and remedy any problem found in the city or sewer district main or lateral maintained by the city or district. City or sewer district personnel will help and advise you if the backflow occurs because of a blockage somewhere other than your lateral.

Your responsibilities:

The homeowner is responsible for clearing any blockage in the home's plumbing system or private lateral and for any resulting flood damage to the structure. The homeowner is also responsible for damage that happens because a lateral was not properly installed, including illegal hookups or not having a required backflow prevention device.

If a backup or backflow causes flooding in your home:

- Keep people and pets away from the affected area(s).
- Do not attempt to clean it yourself.





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- Turn off central heat and air-conditioning systems and prevent flow from reaching floor vents by using towels or blankets as a berm. You can also remove the vent cover and stuff a towel in the opening to help prevent the flow from entering.
- Call an experienced restoration company for cleanup and removal of affected surfaces.
- Leave items in the affected area for the experts to handle.
- Report a claim to your homeowner's insurance carrier.
- If you had recent plumbing work, contact your plumber or contractor.

If you have a claim against your city or local sewer district, file your claim as soon as possible. Check your local government listings if you are unsure who provides your sewer service.

More Be Sewer Smart tips

If you have any questions regarding this information please feel free to contact:

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