Who Fixes Sewer Line Problems?

When a sewer line blockage occurs, responsibility for fixing the problem depends on where the blockage is located.

The City is responsible for maintaining the line within the rights-of-way. The homeowner is responsible for maintaining the line from the house to the rights-of-way.

It is the homeowner’s responsibility to resolve the concern if the blockage is in the homeowner’s sewer line.

For a City sewer line blockage, call the City’s Utility Maintenance Division, 813-757-9288, or 813-757-9191, 24 hours a day.
**Where Does Grease Come From?**

- Meat fats of all types, including beef, pork, chicken
- Lard, shortening
- Butter and margarine
- Cooking oil and salad oil
- Food scraps put down the garbage disposal
- Sauces and gravy—both canned or home-made
- Salad dressings and mayonnaise
- Dairy products: milk, yogurt, and ice cream

**Sanitary System Overflows**

Overflows from sanitary sewer systems are a serious concern. Wastewater carries contaminants and when it flows out of sewer lines and into homes, streets, ditches, ponds or other areas, these contaminants can cause a threat to human health and the environment.

One of the main causes of sanitary sewer overflows is the improper disposal of household oils and grease.

When oils and grease are poured down the drain, it causes a build-up of the grease in a homeowner’s plumbing lines and the City’s sanitary sewer systems.

These build-ups will eventually lead to a blockage in pipes which causes raw wastewater to overflow into homes, and/or into our community streets and water bodies.

**One Easy Way To Stop Overflows**

- Use a paper towel and wipe excess waste from plates, dishes, pots and pans. Throw away excess waste in the trash.
- **DO NOT** pour grease down the sink into the toilet or in a container for trash pick up.
- **RECYCLE** your used cooking oil and grease at the City's Public Used Oil Collection Center. Located at the corner of Victoria and Plant streets. One tank is marked for used COOKING OIL ONLY. The other tank is for used motor oil.
- Be a part of our community’s recycling efforts. See the map on the back of this pamphlet for directions.

*Simple changes to daily activities can make a difference in preventing sanitary sewer overflows*

The diagram shows the typical sewer line from a house to the rights-of-way.

The sewer line should have two clean-outs installed— one next to the house and one near the rights-of-way.

When a blockage occurs, the homeowner should check **cleanout A** by the house to see if it has water in it. If it does, the blockage is likely in the line between the house and the main. **cleanout B**, near the rights-of-way, should then be checked.

Notify the Utility Maintenance Division if this cleanout has water standing in it. If it does not, the blockage is on the homeowner’s property, it is the homeowners responsibility to have the blockage cleaned out.