

# Sewer Backed Up?

## Here's What to Do



■ Owners Responsibility

■ City Or Districts Responsibility

### If a Backup Occurs

First take action to protect people and valuable property. You may call the city at 479-8727 during business hours or the Sheriff's dispatch at 629-8221 after hours and as a service we'll check the main sewer. Any blockages found in the main lines will be promptly cleared. If the main line is not blocked, we recommend that you call a plumbing or sewer contractor to check your lateral line. Maintenance and repair of the lateral serving the home is the owner's responsibility. Regardless of the location of the blockage, clean up of the home should be done as soon as possible to minimize damage and possible negative health effects. There are qualified local businesses that specialize in this type of clean up.

### Backup Prevention

Taking notice of what is flushed down toilets and sinks can prevent most backups. DO NOT flush the following

materials (or similar items) down toilets/drains. These items can plug the main and cause damage to you and other property owners connected to the main.

- Large quantities of toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Feminine napkins
- Disposable diapers
- Clothing – socks, underwear...
- Plastic, metal, wood, etc
- Large quantities of cereals or grains (they can swell with water)
- Live seeds, beans, and peas (they may sprout)
- Grease, fats, oils
- Sand
- Fibrous materials (cotton balls, hair, rags, cigarette butts...)
- Sponges, scouring pads

### Insurance

Many homeowners' policies exclude sewer backups but this coverage often can be added. You should contact your insurance agent for details.