

Spring Showers Bring May Flowers – and Sewer Backups!

Spring rains can bring excess water into the sewer system. When that happens, lines can become overwhelmed – and in some homes, that may lead to a sewer backup.

We want you to know what causes backups, what to do if one happens, and how to prevent them.



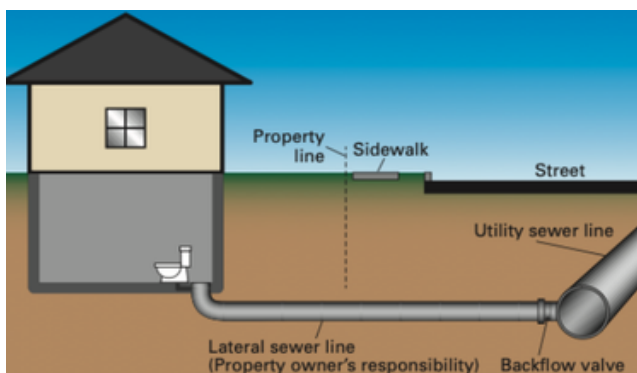
Can a Sewer Backup Affect Me?

If a backup occurs in a utility sewer line, wastewater will typically overflow from the lowest opening in the system.

In homes with a basement or ground-floor drain that sits level with or below the sewer line, wastewater may back up through

- Floor drains
- Toilets
- Lower-level plumbing fixtures

Understanding your home's plumbing setup is the first step in protecting your property.



What Should I Do If Sewage Backs Up Into My Home?

If you experience a backup:

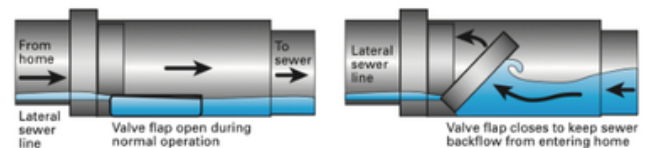
- Protect people and property immediately
- Close drains with stoppers or plugs if possible
- Do not run water until the blockage has been cleared
- **Call Evansville Water and Sewer Utility (EWSU) Emergency Sewer Service: 812-421-2130 (24 hours/day)**

If the problem is in your home's lateral sewer line (the line connecting your home to the utility main), you may need to contact a licensed plumber.

How Can I Help Prevent Sewer Backups?

There are several steps homeowners can take to reduce the risk:

- **Keep grease out of drains:** It hardens and clogs pipes.
- **Only flush toilet paper:** Other items can block pipes and damage the system.
- **Know your lateral line:** Older pipes can crack and let tree roots in. A plumber can check it.
- **Consider a backflow valve:** It helps prevent sewage from backing up into your home during heavy rain.



What About Insurance?

Most standard homeowner or renter insurance policies do not automatically cover sewer backup damage.

In many cases, you must add a special rider to cover water or sewer backup damage. Check with your insurance agent to understand your coverage.