VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
Water and Wastewater Specialists since 1955

Your Sewer Lateral

Your private sewer lateral.
Lateral lines are property of the resident.

Many customers do not realize that they own the sewer lateral that connects their property to the Vallecitos Water District's sewer system.

A private sewer lateral is the pipe that drains your sinks, showers, toilets from your home or building to the Vallecitos Water District's main sewer line. Sewer laterals transport wastewater from all of the drains in your home or building to the public sewer main.

Property owners are responsible for the operation, maintenance, and the repair of their property's sewer lateral from the home or building and including the point of connection to the Vallecitos Water District's sewer main line.

Vallecitos Water District Ordinance 65, Article IV, Section 2 reads, "The District shall not maintain the sewer lateral between the street main and the property line; the property owner shall be responsible for said maintenance."

Why maintaining a private sewer line is important?

Everything we put down our private drains reaches the District's sewer system. Proper maintenance of a private sewer lateral is important because they can clog with roots and grease and can cause a backup inside your property or spill from the line.

A sewer spill can cause damage to your property that is expensive to fix. In addition, a spill may cause public and environmental health concerns.

What are signs I may have a sewer lateral problem?

- Drains backup inside your home or building.
- Sink holes in the yard over the sewer lateral.
- Wet or soggy ground in your yard or near sewer lateral.
- Water standing in or coming out of your sewer cleanout.
- An unusual odor.

What are some things you can do for preventive maintenance?

- Have your sewer lateral video inspected and cleaned regularly.
- Repair and replace deteriorated or damaged lateral pipes as soon as possible.
- Have cleanouts installed on laterals.
- Prevent FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)
- Do not flush diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products down the sewer.

Property Line

Public Right-of-Way Easement | Property Line Clean-Out | House Clean-Out

Street

Sewer Main

Public Right-of-Way Portion of Sewer Lateral | Private Property Portion of Sewer Lateral

Home Owner's Responsibility to clean and maintain lateral from House to Sewer Main