

Residential Sewer Laterals and Warson Woods Lateral Replacement Program

The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) and property owners share responsibility for the sewer system. MSD manages thousands of miles of sewers, transporting wastewater to one of seven sewer treatment plants. Individual property owners are responsible for another important part of the system, the sewer lateral that connects a home's plumbing to the public sewer in the street.

A little bit of preventive maintenance goes a long way. Incorporate lateral line maintenance into your home maintenance routine to protect your home from basement backups.

- Have the lateral line inspected and cleaned annually by a licensed plumber.
- Do not plant trees or large shrubs near the lateral line. Roots can enter the lateral line and cause a blockage.
- Do not pour grease down the sink. When grease cools, it can build up in the lateral line and cause a blockage.
- Do not flush diapers, feminine hygiene products or other non-toilet paper materials down the toilet (even those that say they are disposable). These items can block the lateral line.
- In some areas, downspouts are connected to the lateral line. Debris from the roof can wash into the gutters and eventually reach the lateral line. Keep gutters clean to keep debris from blocking the lateral line.
- Repair or replace damaged lateral lines as soon as possible.

Most homeowner and business owner insurance policies do not cover damages caused by a problem with the lateral line. The City of Warson Woods has a lateral line insurance program. This is not an MSD program, rather it is paid for through your property tax bill. Please contact Mark Wittich (mwittich@warsonwoods.com) or City Hall for more information or visit the Sewer Lateral Program page on this website.

MSD suggests property owners verify coverage with their insurance agent and plan accordingly. For more information, visit the MSD website, www.stlmsd.com/customer-service/service-issues/lateral-line.