

WHAT IS A SEWER LATERAL?

Your home's plumbing is connected to the public wastewater system through an underground pipe called a "private sewer lateral." As the property owner, you own this pipe. You are also responsible for keeping it flowing freely, and for repairing cracks and breaks.

Laterals do not end at the curb or property line, but extend all the way to the sewer main, which is often located in the street. The main sewer line is maintained by Oro Loma Sanitary District, which also manages the treatment facility.

Inside this brochure you'll find an informative diagram showing the approximate location of the lateral in relation to your property line. Each home and property is unique, however, and conditions may vary. At a minimum, take this opportunity to find your particular property's sewer clean outs for future reference.



Typical sewer cleanout.

MOST-USED LOCAL CONTRACTORS

Star Rooter & Plumbing (96 permits)(510)377-4749
Rescue Rooter (23 permits)(510)729-6227
King Rooter (12 permits)(510)501-1223
Evenflow Plumbing (11 permits)(510)782-3649
Streamline Inc. (11 permits)(510)755-1893
Amigo Rooter & Plumbing (9 permits)(510)363-2927
Pro Rooter (8 permits)(510)670-1115
Rotorooter (5 permits)(510)483-2324

These local contractors regularly perform sewer lateral replacements in the cities served by the Oro Loma Sanitary District. This list includes contractors performing five or more permitted lateral replacements in the District according to a recent annual survey. Inclusion on the list does not indicate a recommendation by the District.

A RESOURCE FOR YOU

The Oro Loma Sanitary District serves more than 47,000 customers in unincorporated communities in Alameda County, including San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview, portions of Castro Valley, and designated areas of the Cities of Hayward and San Leandro.

If you are experiencing trouble with your sewer, a call to us first and fast will get trained professionals to your home for assistance. Regular check ups and maintenance can help prevent unpleasant spills and expensive repairs in the future.



ORO LOMA SANITARY DISTRICT

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**Back up
in your tub?**

**Sewage
on your lawn?**

**Pipe cleanout
under the rosebush
bubbling over?**



The problem may be your responsibility, but the Oro Loma Sanitary District can help!



GOT SEWER TROUBLE?



If you are experiencing trouble with your sewer, a call to us first and fast will get trained professionals to your home for assistance.

When there's a problem (like a break, back up, or spill that doesn't respond to simple drain clearing), we can help you determine if the problem is related to the public sewer or the private pipe (lateral) that connects your home to the public system.

This brochure provides you with useful information and guidelines for solving problems on your private lateral with a minimum of disruption and expense.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

DIAGNOSIS

- Sometimes a simple dose of a clog-dissolving product like Draino will work.
- Failing that, a professional plumber can sometimes clear the clog by running a metal snake down the line. Ask your friends or neighbors for a recommendation.
- If that doesn't work, you should consider hiring a licensed plumbing contractor to run a camera through the pipe to find the source of the problem. Spending some money to pinpoint the problem — whether it's a crack, break, tree root or clog — can save on the repair in the long run. Be sure to get a copy of the results and any electronic footage.
- Ask for a recommended repair plan and price.
- Get a second opinion. Bring the file to the Oro Loma Sanitary District office in San Lorenzo and engineers will help you interpret the results.

REPAIR

- If a repair is recommended get at least three quotes from licensed contractors, sewer repairs can be expensive because lines run underground and sometimes have to be dug up! Just getting access to replace a small length of pipe can be the costliest part of the repair.
- Expect to pay between \$1,000 (for a simple spot repair) to \$7500 (for a serious problem). Recent local survey results suggest the average cost to replace a lateral from the home to the main in the street is \$4,800, with bids ranging from \$3,300 to \$7,380. While each installation is different, it is reasonable to expect that your expense would not vary from the noted range.
- Permits are required from the Oro Loma Sanitary District to perform the repair. When you obtain a permit, our inspectors will help you make sure that the work is performed to District standards.

PREVENTION TIPS

- Inspect any home before you buy it and find out where the sewer main is located. A licensed plumber's video inspection may reveal cracks, breaks, offsets, and root intrusion.
- Don't plant trees or invest in expensive landscaping over the top of your lateral. Roots grow toward sewer line cracks in search of water, often forming root balls that clog the line.
- Consider installing a backflow prevention system, which limits the potential for a backup in the public system from entering your home.

HOME-OWNER CHECKLIST

Check your repair bid against this Oro Loma Sanitary District list of important considerations. District standards require that a backflow prevention system be installed whenever a sewer lateral is repaired or replaced.

- Does the bid specifically state how much of the pipe will be replaced?
- Will the contractor replace the lateral all the way to the main?
- Does the estimate include a backflow prevention system?
- Does the bid include a District repair permit, as well as a City or County encroachment permit if the repair extends into the street or sidewalk?
- Has the contractor done work with the Oro Loma Sanitary District before? Are they familiar with District requirements?

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Do not pour fats, oil or grease down drains. Grease washed down the drain hardens downstream in the pipe. This can either restrict flow in a private lateral or increase the potential of an overflow in the public sewer.
- After soaking a greasy pan, place a paper towel over the drain basket to catch grease and food particles as you slowly pour the water down the drain. Put the paper towel in your green waste cart.
- Collect waste cooking oil and mix it into yard clippings in your green waste container.
- Do not flush wipes, diapers or feminine hygiene products, even if they are labeled "flushable." So-called flushable products catch on defects in laterals, or on grease build-up, and form clogs.

