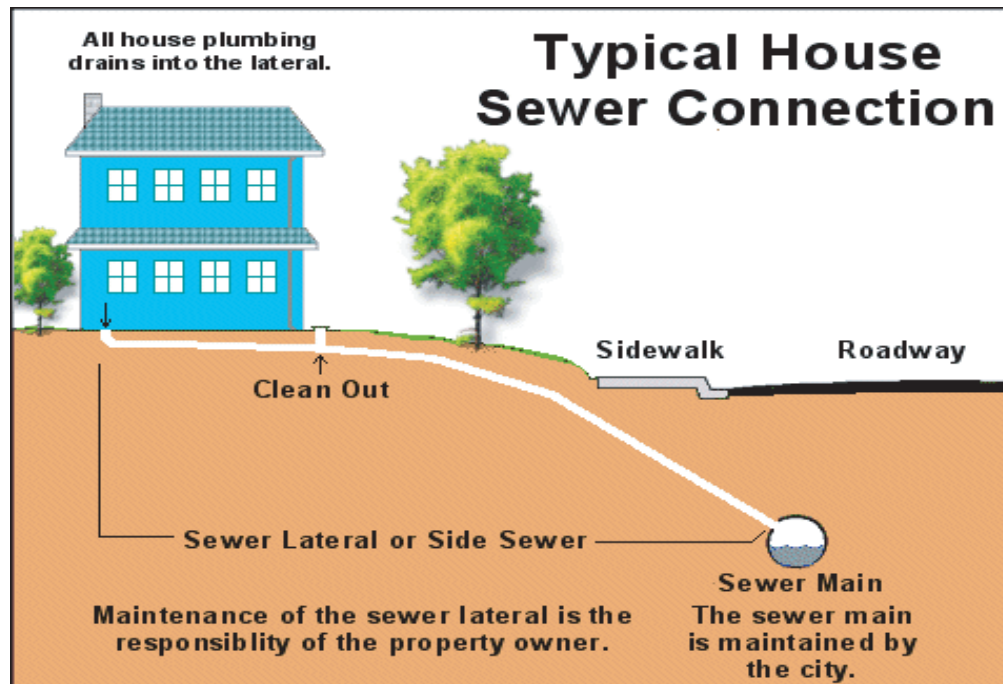


MINIMIZE SEWER BACK-UPS & SAVE A BUNDLE

The Sewer System within your community is comprised of a series of underground pipes. The local mainline sewers which are typically 8 inches in diameter and located in the streets or easements are owned by the local public agency. The laterals which are typically 4 to 6 inches in diameter and extend from your home or business to the mainline are entirely owned by you and you are responsible for the maintenance of these lines. The different sewer lines are shown in the diagram below:



The Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District of Los Angeles County (District) is responsible for the maintenance of the mainline sewers. The private property owner is responsible for the maintenance of the sewer lateral, including the portion within the County's or City's road right of ways such as under the street and sidewalk.

Unfortunately, sewer laterals are often neglected. "Out of sight out of mind," is the typical approach to sewer lateral maintenance by many. When the laterals are not properly maintained, clogging or other damage such as root intrusion may occur and result in sewer overflows through cleanouts or sewer back-ups into homes or businesses. Sewer-back ups can cause enormous and costly damages to homes' or business' interior and exposure to raw sewage.

In addition, some properties because of their locations are required to have a back flow valve installed in the house lateral to prevent sewage from backing up into the building when there is an obstruction in the public sewer mainline.

Check with your local building officials or plumber to determine if your lateral has a back flow valve and if so, make sure it is properly maintained. To learn more about a back flow valve, go to our Department's web site at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/tabRes.cfm> and click on the back flow valve link.