

Connections



March/April 2014

Clark Regional Wastewater District

8000 NE 52 Court
PO Box 8979
Vancouver, WA 98668
Phone: 360-750-5876
Fax: 360-750-7570

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday
8:00 am—5:00 pm
Closed Sat, Sun, &
Holidays

Emergency? Call us
@ 360-750-5876
24 hours per day/
7 days per week

Commissioners:

Denny Kiggins
Norm Harker
Neil Kimsey

General Manager:

John M. Peterson, P.E.

Freeze the Grease!

Would you like to receive a free "Freeze the Grease" kit? Simply provide your mailing address to Kim Thur at (360) 993-8822 or by email to kthur@crwwd.com.



Reliable Service Starts at Home

In the next few issues of the *Connections* newsletter, the District will provide information about how you can help ensure reliable and affordable service. The District will be taking you on an educational tour through the sewer system. Along the way, the District will also help answer the question, why?

Why what you do in the home matters: to our system, the environment and even to your rates. At each stop in the tour, the District will provide information about how the system works and easy "tips" that you can do to help ensure reliable and affordable service.

The tour begins where it all starts—at home. Every time you use a faucet or flush a toilet, you are creating wastewater; an average family will send approximately 200 gallons down the drain every day. This wastewater first enters the plumbing system and then gets routed from your home. It works by gravity and routes it through 2-4" pipes. These pipes can become blocked with wipes or clogged with grease. This is why it is very important that you are careful of what you flush because you do not want sewage to backup into your home.

Reliability tip #1 - Know what you flush

So what can you do to help? Tip #1 is "KNOW WHAT TO FLUSH;" only flush

human waste and toilet paper—nothing else! It's important to know that what you flush really does matter. For more information, please visit www.crwwd.com/flush.html.



Continuing with the tour, wastewater then flows from your home through a sewer lateral. The sewer lateral connects your home's plumbing system to the District's central system; usually a main line in the street. These 4" laterals are buried and typically run through a front yard.

Reliability tip #2 - Know your lateral

Tip #2 is "KNOW YOUR LATERAL." You should know the location of the sewer lateral on your property. The District maintains an extensive database containing a record of most every sewer permit. Please contact the District to obtain a copy of your sewer permit.

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Visit us online at www.CRWWD.com

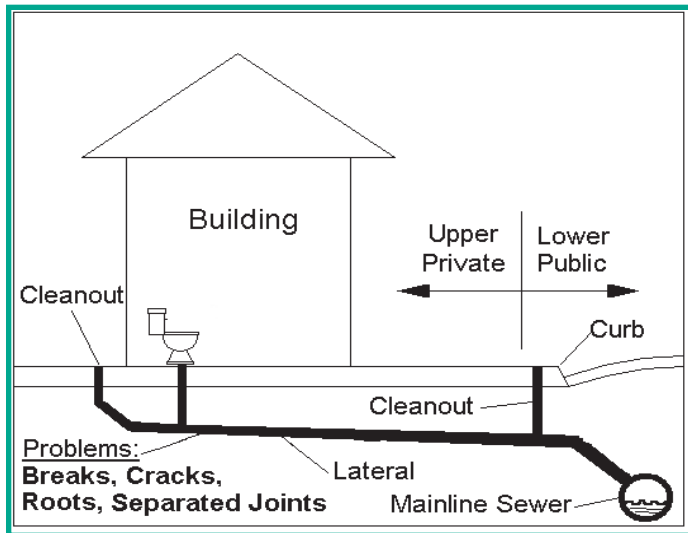
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Reliability tip #2 - know your lateral

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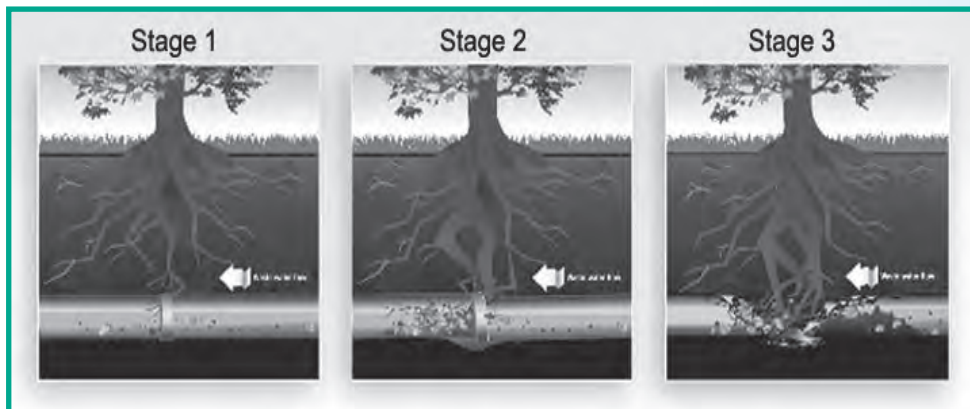
District staff would be happy to provide you with a copy of your sewer permit. Visit the District online at www.crvwd.com/contact.html or simply call (360) 750-5876.



Laterals are also prone to plugging if you're not careful about what is flushed. However, there is another very common problem that causes laterals to become plugged—roots.

Reliability tip #3 - Plant wise

Tip #3 is to "PLANT WISE." Don't plant trees or shrubs over the lateral. Mature trees add beauty and shade to the landscape, but their roots can cause extensive damage to sewer pipes. Tree roots are attracted and drawn to the wastewater flowing through your lateral.



Roots that begin to grow inside sewer pipes are one of the most common problems that cause sewer backups in homes every year. The replacement cost of these laterals damaged by tree roots can vary from \$1,000 to

\$10,000; not to mention the damage it can cause in the home. If you decide to plant trees or shrubs, choose small, slow-growing species, with less aggressive root systems and replace them before they get too large for their planting area. There are no truly safe trees, but by using small, slower-growing trees, sewer laterals have a better chance against the intrusion of tree roots.

So what do you do if you have sewage backing up into your home?

Reliability tip #4 - Know who to call

Tip #4 is to "KNOW WHO TO CALL." You can call the District 24 hours a day/7 days per week at (360) 750-5876. If you have sewage backing up into your home, call the District.



District staff will first gather important and helpful information from you to determine the best response and may even be able to talk you through solving the problem yourself. That's standard operating procedure. It helps to know whether it is your (private) line or a

street (public) line that is causing the problem because each requires dispatching a different set of tools/equipment—and the District wants to ensure there is no wasted time in solving your problem. While the private line is your responsibility, the District can provide helpful direction and advice on correcting the problem. If the public line is causing the problem, the District will promptly dispatch personnel to resolve the issue.

Please practice these four simple tips to keep your service running smoothly and affordably. This ends this portion of the tour of the sewer system. Look for our continued discussion in upcoming issues.