

Preventing Future Problems

Many problems from a blockage or even the collapsing of sanitary service lines, or laterals, to houses or businesses are caused by tree roots that grow into and through the pipes. Removing trees that grow over the path of the service lateral can prevent problems. Never plant trees or shrubs on top of or near sewer lines.

Cease the Grease!

The build-up of fats, oils and grease, including cooking oils, sandwich spreads, salad dressing, meat fat and similar products, will eventually cause sewer lines to clog. These blockages can cause the sewer to overflow into your neighborhood, streets, streams and even your home. Allow fats, cooking oils and grease to cool and put it into a container with a lid before placing it in the trash. Before you rinse your dishes, soak up remaining oils with a paper towel and scrape food into the trash. Large quantities of cooking oil and grease can be taken to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center at 6400 Bridge St. in Fort Worth.

Please visit our website at: www.arlingtontx.gov/water for advice to help you and your neighbors avoid plumbing repairs and emergencies from clogged sewer pipes.

Your Toilet is Not a Trash Can

Private service laterals are not large in diameter, typically 3 or 4 inches. They are intended for the passage of water and soluble waste. Flushing insolubles, such as paper, diapers, wipes, feminine products, plastic or even food and vegetables, can quickly block service laterals. Only flush human waste and toilet paper.

Many items marketed as disposable do not degrade like toilet paper. They end up clogging pipes, tangling pumps and causing messy sewer backups into streets, businesses and homes. Go to www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com for more information on what should and shouldn't go down the drain.



For more information about your sanitary sewer or water services, please contact **Arlington Water Utilities** at 817-459-5900 or visit: www.arlingtontx.gov/water

Rev. 06/20

Suffering from Sewer Problems?



Arlington Water Utilities

817-459-5900

www.arlingtontx.gov/water



Sewer Problems ?

The City of Arlington owns and maintains public sanitary sewer mains, which are typically in the street (Figure 1) or in the utility easements along back property lines (Figure 2).

The sewer line that runs from your house to the public sewer main is called a private sewer service lateral. As outlined in a 1987 Arlington City Ordinance, this line is owned and maintained by the property owner, up to and including the point at which it ties into the public sewer main (Figures 1 & 2).

Where is the Problem ?

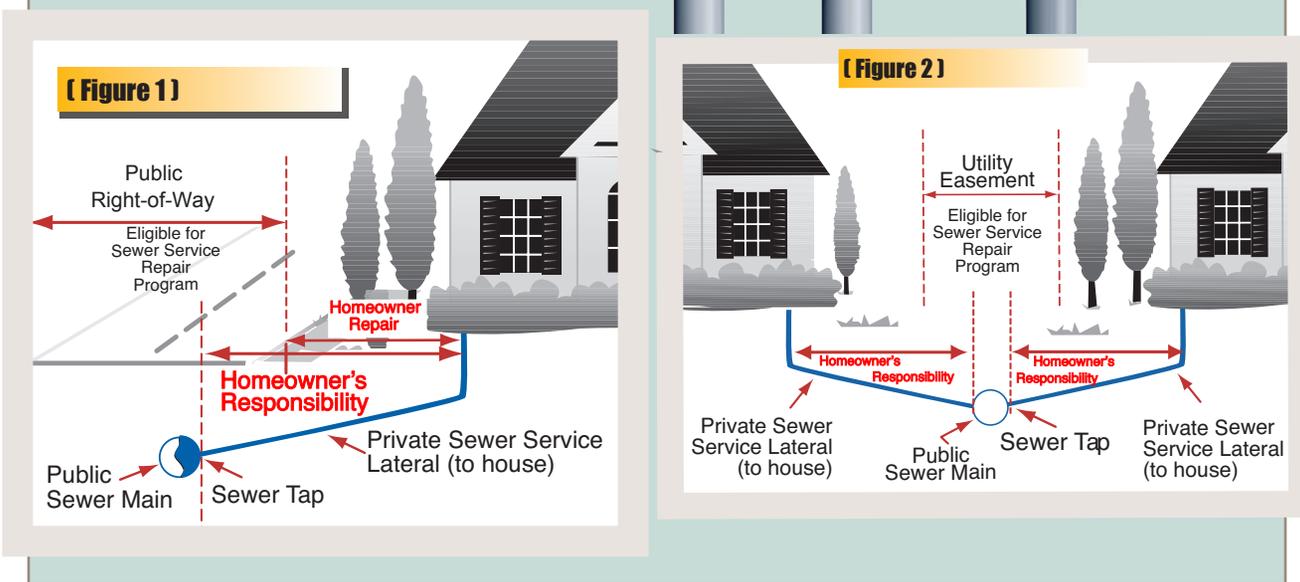
If sewage is backing up in your home, call (817) 459-5900 and a representative from Arlington Water Utilities will dispatch a crew to check the publicly-owned sewer main. Once city crews check the public sewer main, they will provide information about whether the public sewer main is blocked and what action is being taken.

If there is a blockage in the public sewer main, city crews will unstop it, and the problem will likely be relieved. If the public sewer main is not blocked, then the problem is in your private sewer service lateral, somewhere between your connection to the public sewer main and your house.

A Problem in your Private Sewer Service Lateral..

If the public sewer main is not blocked, you will need to call a plumber to check your private sewer service lateral for blockage. The plumber needs to clear blockages on your entire private sewer service lateral up to the connection to the public sewer main. Then, contact Arlington Water Utilities to arrange a check for structural damage in the right-of-way or utility easement.

A private sewer lateral clean-out, which is typically close to the home, is the responsibility of the homeowner, and must be accessible before work can be started.



Right-of-Way Repairs

Once your private sewer lateral is clear, Arlington Water Utilities will check for structural failure in the public right-of-way or utilities easement. If your private sewer service lateral has a structural failure in the public right-of-way or utility easement, Arlington Water Utilities will coordinate a repair at no cost to the homeowner.

**Performing this work will correct structural failures in the repaired portion of the line.
You may still have problems in the remainder of your service line that will need repair.**