

How to prevent backups by fixing improper connections and other drainage tips:

- Replace the cap on the sanitary sewer cleanout.
- Clean or fix any cracks in the sanitary sewer lateral. Contact a plumber to assist you with lateral repairs.
- Redirect basement sump pump flow, roof drains, and yard drains away from the sanitary sewer and onto lawns where flows can infiltrate into the soil.
- Provide positive drainage away from the house for sump pumps and downspouts.
- Keep your drainage system and downspouts clear so that water can move freely down and away from the side of your house.
- Attach extensions so that water is delivered at least 10 feet from the foundation. Grade and landscape your lot to move water away from the house.
- Run sump pump pipe overland to a ditch or swale to drain to another location. Don't discharge sump pump water onto an adjacent property, over a sidewalk, a street, or paved surface.
- Discharge sump pump into a flexible tube that can be moved around the yard to avoid discharging in only one spot.
- Use landscaping to disperse the water evenly.
- Seal the cracks between your house and your driveway or sidewalk.
- Never turn off your sump pump. If you can, have a spare pump in the house, just in case. Consider a backup battery system for your sump pump in case of power outages.
- Don't connect sump pump discharge piping to the property's sanitary sewer lateral or to the sanitary sewer in any way.
- Install a backflow prevention device.

What do I do?

If you are experiencing a backup and believe it is related to the City's sanitary sewer main, contact the Franklin Department of Public Works (DPW) at 317-736-3648.

More Information:

More information is available on the Franklin DPW website:

www.franklinpublicworks.com



Mayor Steve Barnett

Department of Public Works

Sally Brown

Wastewater Superintendent

796 South State Street

Franklin, IN 46131

Telephone: 888-736-3640

www.franklinpublicworks.com

Clear Water Reduction Program



City of Franklin

Department of Public Works

The City of Franklin is performing public education on Clear Water sources and how to keep them out of the sanitary sewer system.



City of Franklin Sanitary Sewer System

The City operates a sanitary sewer system that conveys sanitary waste to the wastewater treatment plant to be treated for pollutants.

The City of Franklin is currently working to reduce the amount of excess water that flows into the sanitary sewer system from groundwater and stormwater sources. This excess water enters the sanitary sewers through holes, cracks, and joint failures (infiltration), or via roof drain downspout connections, foundation drains, sump pumps, and storm drain cross-connections (inflow). This water is not meant to be in the sanitary sewer system, as it comes from “clear” or “clean” sources of water.

The City has proactively addressed system issues through rehabilitation and replacement of aging infrastructure, reducing the inflow/infiltration of Clear Water into the sanitary system through cracks and holes.

The City is in the process of conducting manhole inspections and smoke testing to identify improper connections to the sanitary sewer system that maybe allowing Clear Water sources into the sewer system.

What is an improper connection?

Any connection that places stormwater or groundwater into the sanitary sewer system, typically via the sewer lateral, and can include sump pumps, yard/driveway drains, and gutters/downspouts.

What is a Sanitary Sewer Lateral?

A sewer lateral is the underground pipe that connects a residence or business to the City’s sewer line. The operation and maintenance of a sewer lateral is the responsibility of the property owner. The condition of the lateral may contribute to backups if it is broken, has offset joints, is cracked, etc. Plumbers can use a small camera to determine the condition of the lateral.

How does Clear Water impact the sanitary sewer system?

Excess flows from improper connections, or inflow of groundwater, to the sanitary sewer system reduces the capacity of the sanitary sewer and can overload it. Overloaded sanitary sewer lines can result in a backup of sanitary waste into the home or lead to a sanitary sewer overflow further downstream in the system. Sanitary sewer overflows can result in a release of untreated sanitary waste directly into area waterbodies which directly impacts aquatic life and ecosystems.

As an example, an eight-inch sanitary sewer can handle domestic wastewater flow from up to 465 homes; however, it only takes twelve sump pumps operating at full capacity to overload an eight-inch sanitary sewer.

Am I required to remove improper connections?

Currently, the City of Franklin’s Sewer Use Ordinance does prohibit the intrusion of extraneous storm-related water into sanitary sewers. The City is requesting property owners identify sources of Clear Water and remove them if possible.

