

IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING THE CITY'S SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM



The Brooklyn Center Public Utilities Division responds to many after hour emergency calls indicating pump failures at various lift stations. Some of these alarms were late at night and in each response, the alarm was activated due to rags, disinfecting wipes, Swiffers or disposable diapers that were tangled or stuck in pumps. Grease was also a major culprit in clogging the pumps. When a pump failure occurs there is a chance of a sewer backup that could affect numerous properties. Sewer backups are very costly and pose a serious threat to the health and safety of residents.

Citizens play an important role in preventing these type of occurrences. Please do not flush anything down the toilet that could clog the sewer collection system or anything that could damage the wastewater pumping or treatment facility. These prohibited items include:

- Disinfecting wipes, Swiffers, disposable diapers, paper towels, feminine products and other bulky so called "disposable" products or similar substances
- Fats, oils or greases
- Flammable or explosive liquids, solids or gases
- Garbage, sand, metals, wood, straw or grass, wastepaper, plastics, glass and cat litter (including so called "flushable" cat litter)
- Corrosive substances that are either acidic or caustic
- Any substance that is toxic to the treatment facilities or workers in the facilities
- Dye wastes or tanning solutions
- Anything radioactive

These items cause many problems in the property owner's line in addition to the sanitary sewer main. These products do not deteriorate quickly; as does bathroom tissue. They can become lodged in portions of the lateral/main, causing a sewer backup. These products must be disposed of properly in your household garbage, recycling, or by other approved waste gathering means.

If you experience a sewer backup problem, please call the City Public Utility Division immediately. City Public Utility personnel will respond and determine if the blockage is in the City sewer line or your private sewer line at no charge to the resident.

If you hire a private sewer cleaning service and they remove tree roots, please notify the City to prevent a possible secondary backup from occurring. A secondary backup can occur when roots cleaned from private house sewer lines get lodged in the main City sewer line. If unchecked, this could result in a sewer backup in your basement as well as your neighbor's basement.

Please use care and dispose of products responsibly. Proper waste disposal and care of our sanitary sewer system leads to higher efficiency, causes fewer backups, costs us all less money and prevents a lot of misery. If you experience a sewer back up, please contact the City Public Utility Division at 763-585-7100 Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. After hours, weekends and holidays, please call 911 and they will dispatch Public Utility personnel.