



City of Santa Barbara's Sewer Lateral Inspection Program

Private Sewer Lateral Preventive Maintenance

The City of Santa Barbara's Wastewater Collection System is considered one of the most organized, clean, and technologically advanced sewers systems in the State of California. It is managed by the Water Resources Division, under the Public Works Department, and was recently awarded the CWEA's Best Collection System of the Year 2019 in the Medium Category (250-500 miles) at the State level. The commitment of the community and the City has made this possible through decades of hard work. The City aspires to provide its constituents with all the tools necessary to be capable of offering the best wastewater collection service possible, and a significant part to achieve it is through the Sewer Lateral Inspection Program (SLIP), where the City is aiming to someday, have every Private Sewer Lateral in the City adequately maintained.

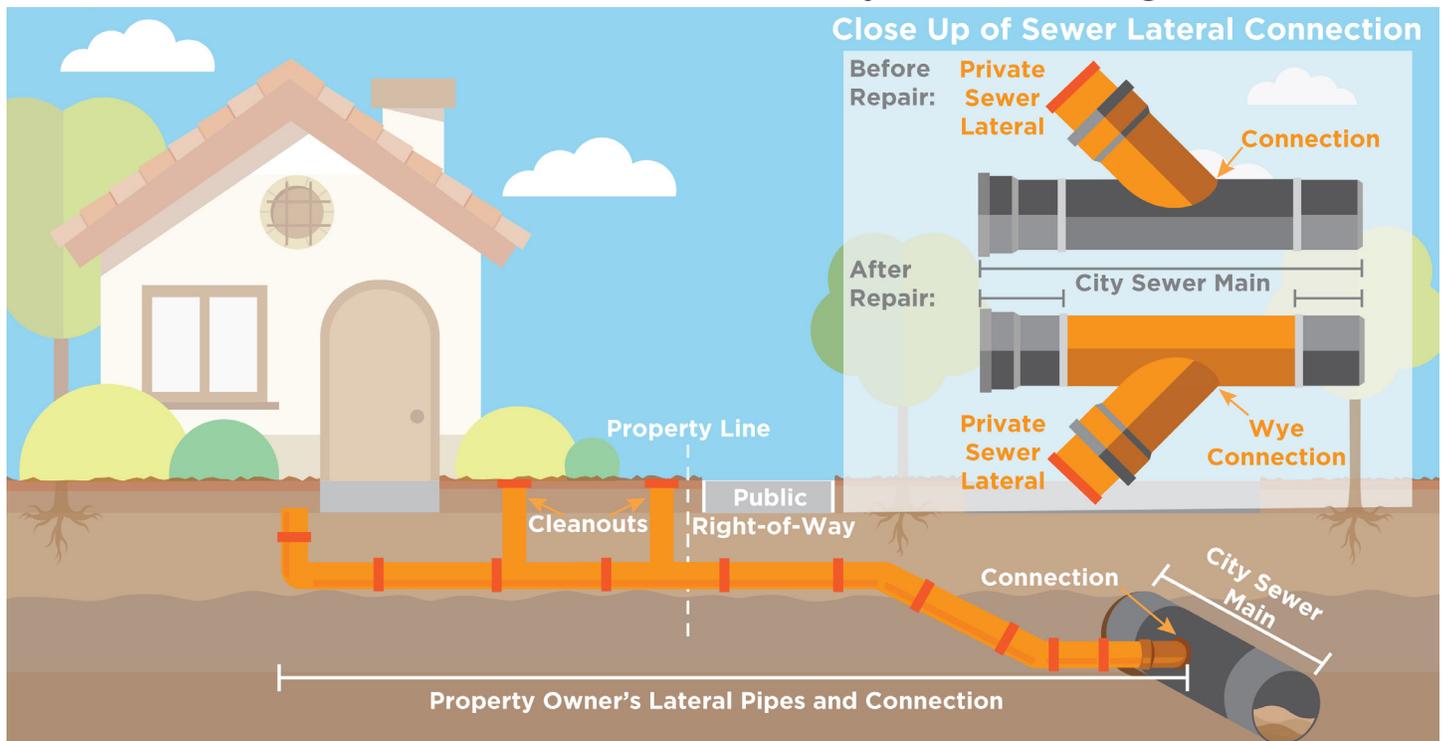
What is a Private Sewer Lateral?

A Private Sewer Lateral is the privately owned pipe that connects the sanitary drains in the home or business to the City's sewer main line, with the connection point typically located in the street. Without proper maintenance, both the private property's and the City's infrastructure are at risk of costly and environmental damages. Catching and fixing problems early, through inspection and repair, is usually more economical for you and the City rather than having to address problems after a sewer lateral fails.

Did You Know that a Property Owner is Responsible for Properly Maintaining its Private Sewer Lateral?

Residential properties in Santa Barbara and the City's Sewer System is 60-years old on average, which means that the sewer lateral in your property is most likely approaching the end of its useful life. By not properly maintaining your sewer lateral, you are putting yours and the City's assets at risk. A sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) or a private lateral sanitary discharge (PLSD), are pretty unpleasant and expensive accidents, most of the time is caused by a poorly maintained sewer lateral.

Private Sewer Lateral Connection to City Sewer Main Diagram

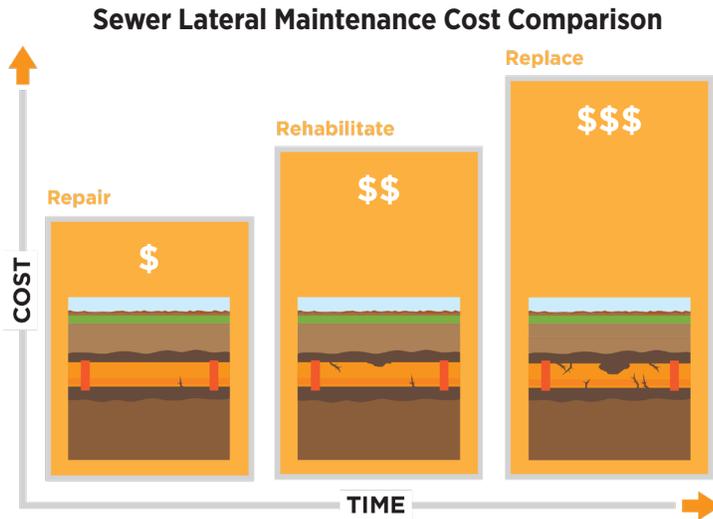


The definition of ownership and responsibility of a Private Sewer Lateral is detailed in the Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 14.44.160 (<http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara>).

Reasons to Inspect and Maintain Your Sewer Lateral



Deferring Maintenance and Repairs will Cost You More in the Long Term



- **Repair:** Making spot repairs at specific locations can prevent blockages which will save you money and extend the useful life of your sewer lateral.
- **Rehabilitate:** If several locations on your lateral need repairs, a better option could be rehabilitating the entire lateral by installing a Cured-in-Place-Pipe (CIPP) liner. Early detection can prevent the need for a costly replacement.
- **Replace:** The longer a sewer lateral deteriorates, the more likely the entire lateral will need to be replaced through more expensive repair methods such as trenching or pipe bursting.



Avoids Unpleasant and Expensive Home Accidents

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) and Private Lateral Sewer Discharges (PLSDs) are not only unpleasant and inconvenient, but can also result in costly damages and impacts to the environment.

When a SSOs or a PLSD happens, it is very likely that you will end up calling the City to respond and temporarily solve the emergency. Then, per Municipal Code, the City will have to charge the the proprietor a recovery fee through the property's water bill.



Cleaning and Not Repairing Your Sewer Lateral Will End Up Costing You More

It is good practice to inspect and clean your sewer lateral every 4 to 5 years in average. If you need to clean and inspect your lateral more often than that, you might be avoiding SSOs or PLSDs to happen, but it is a clear sign of a defect on your sewer lateral that is allowing roots, shrubs or plants to clog the line. Continuing to clean without repairing will result in spending more money than eliminating the root cause of the problem.



Newly Developed Less Invasive and Low-Cost Repair Methods

Nowadays, depending on your case, you could use new and less invasive repair methods that the City encourages. Techniques such as Cured-in-Place-Pipe (CIPP) Lining reduces the amount of excavation and it is cost competitive compared to pipe bursting and trenching methods. The City has compiled a list of plumbers that offers such services in the area. For more information please visit www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SLIPRepairs



City's Professional Support Available

The City of Santa Barbara's Sewer Lateral Inspection Program (SLIP) was established to serve the community by detecting and notifying property owners of sewer lateral defects, and to provide professional support in repairing and maintaining private sewer laterals. Please, visit www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SLIP for additional information.



Contact: Available hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-Th and every other Friday.

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Please, visit www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SLIPEvents to register at any of our offered events, or to schedule an appointment with our SLIP Team staff.