Cured in place pipe – lined pipe

What can you do to prevent a back-up?

- **Maintain your lateral** – Regular inspections, cleanings, and repairs can save your basement from a backup. The City regularly inspects and cleans the City's infrastructure on a five year cycle and completes any repairs as necessary.
- **Remove roots** – Have a plumber remove the roots from your lateral. These tree roots will continue to grow back and may require subsequent removals or maintenance
- **Replace or line your lateral -** Replacing or lining your lateral is the most expensive option but a permanent one. These options will virtually eliminate roots, decrease pipe defects, and will extend the life of the lateral. Requires a permit.
- **Install a backflow preventer** – If continual basement backups are an issue for you. Discuss the pros and cons with a knowledgeable contractor. Requires a permit.

City of Mequon Engineering Department

For More Information

Further information can be found on the City's website or by contacting the Deputy Director of Utilities Kevin Driscoll.

Contact Information

Phone: 262-236-2937
Email: kdriscoll@ci.mequon.wi.us

Web: www.ci.mequon.wi.us, click on the Departments tab and scroll down to Engineering Department. Additional information is contained in the sidebar on the Engineering Department webpage.

24 Hour Police Non-Emergency Contact Information
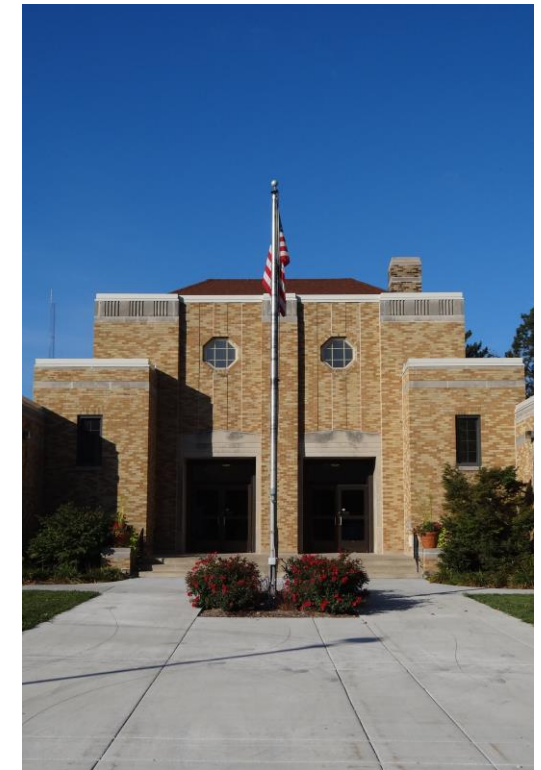
After hours:

Phone: 262-242-3500

CITY OF MEQUON
11333 N. Cedarburg Rd.
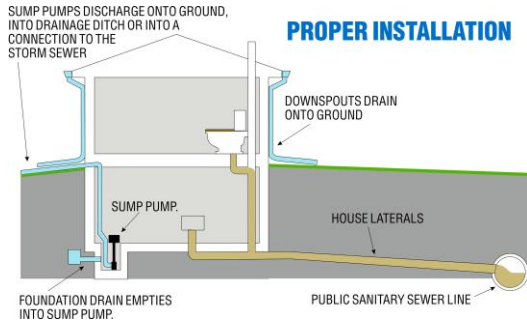Mequon, WI 53092
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CITY OF MEQUON

Preventing sewage in your basement

Resident Informational Brochure

SUMP PUMPS DISCHARGE ONTO GROUND, INTO DRAINAGE DITCH OR INTO A CONNECTION TO THE STORM SEWER

PROPER INSTALLATION

DOWNSPOUTS DRAIN ONTO GROUND

SUMP PUMP.

HOUSE LATERALS

FOUNDATION DRAIN EMPTIES INTO SUMP PUMP.

PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER LINE

Typical Home Image Courtesy of Ron Graves, Ad Grafix, Inc. and the Muncie, IN Sanitary District

What to do when your sanitary sewer back-ups into your basement?

1. Move objects away from the sewage backing up to prevent any further damage to property.
2. Between the hours of 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Monday – Friday call Kevin Driscoll. After hours call Mequon Police and report the sewer backup. Give them your Name, Phone Number and the Address of where the backup is occurring.
3. The Police Department will contact the on-call waste water worker. The worker will contact you, arrive on the scene and evaluate whether it is a lateral or mainline issue.
4. If it is a mainline issue the worker will clean the line to remove any obstructions. Take pictures of the backup if there is any damage to your property and notify City Hall of the backup.

Sewer back-ups (cont.)

5. If it is a private lateral issue the problem is on your property and you will need to call a plumber. Let the plumber know that the City's mainline is flowing properly. The plumber may ask for information such as distance from the road to help determine how long of the appropriate rodding device to bring. You may want to have the plumber televise and record the condition of your lateral for your reference.
6. Begin cleanup. Raw, untreated sewage contains bacteria and pathogens; residents may consider hiring a professional cleaning service that specializes in this type of cleanup.

Over time tree roots can grow beyond the diameter of a 6" sewer lateral.

What causes a sanitary sewer backup?

There are many reasons a sanitary sewer system or individual laterals backup. Here are the three most common:

Root intrusion in a 6" lateral

Causes of a back-up (cont.)

1. **Roots** - Tree roots are the most common cause of a backup. Roots can grow and infiltrate a lateral or main. These roots collect solids and impede water eventually clogging the sewer.
2. **Pipe Failure** – Pipes can collapse or sag at any time for a variety of reasons causing a blockage and a backup.
3. **Rain Events** – Sanitary Sewer systems are susceptible to water inflow and infiltration (I/I). Inflow is clear water that enters the sanitary sewer system directly from an illegal connection. Infiltration is water that seeps in from cracks in manholes, mains, and laterals. I/I causes capacity issues and if these capacity issues are great enough can lead to basement backups. The City monitors the public system and takes action to alleviate I/I.