



Take Care of Your Sewer Lateral

Your home's plumbing is connected to the public wastewater system through an underground pipe called a "private sewer lateral." As the property owner, you own this pipe and are responsible for keeping it flowing freely and repairing cracks and breaks. Rancho Murieta CSD maintains the public sewer. Laterals do not necessarily end at the curb or property line, but extend all the way to the sewer main, which is often located in the middle of the street.

You may rarely think about your sewer pipes—until something stops working properly. These steps can help you avoid the unpleasant and usually costly experience of sewage backing up into your home.

- Do not pour fats, oil or grease down drains. After soaking a greasy pan, place a paper towel over the drain basket to catch grease and food particles as you slowly pour the water down the drain. Put the paper towel in your green waste cart. Collect waste cooking oil and grease in a container with a tight-fitting lid and dispose in the **garbage**.
- Do not flush wipes, diapers or feminine hygiene products, even if they are labeled "flushable." As homes age, roots often infiltrate sewer laterals. So-called flushable products catch on intrusions or grease build-up and clog sewer pipes.
- Don't plant trees and large shrubs near sewer lines. Roots grow toward sewer line cracks in search of water, often forming root balls that clog the line.
- When buying a home, have the sewer lateral inspected. A licensed plumber's video inspection may reveal cracks, breaks, offsets, and root intrusion. The pipe may need to be cleaned, repaired, or replaced.