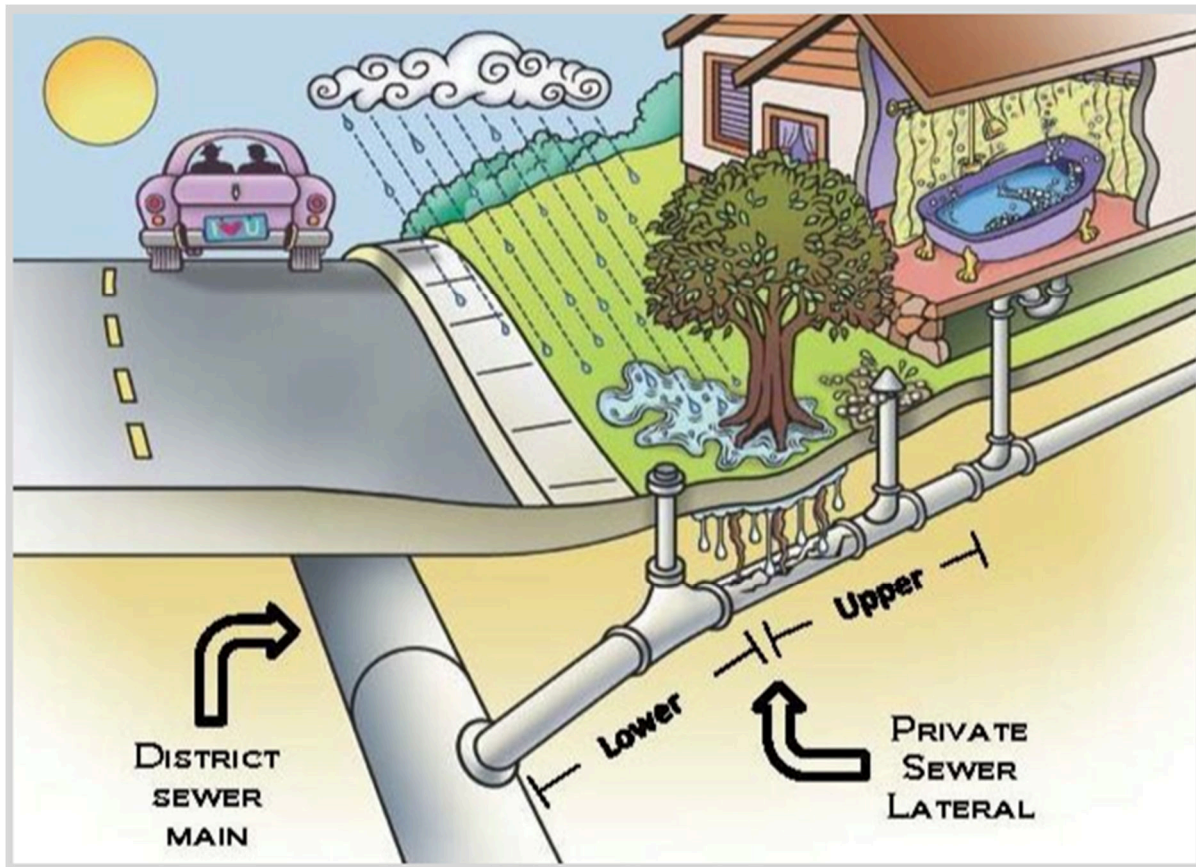


# Humboldt Community Services District

*Dedicated to providing high quality, cost effective water and sewer service for our customers*

## Taking 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" (PSLs). As the property owner, you own the upper portion of this pipe and are responsible for repairs as required. You are also responsible for maintaining flow through the upper and lower PSLs. Laterals may not end at the curb or property line, but extend all the way to the public sewer main, which is often located under the middle of the street. Humboldt Community Services District maintains the public sewer and lower lateral portion of the PSL.



Inspecting and repairing your PSL in a timely manner protects the environment from preventable sewer overflows. Cracked, broken, and/or offset laterals allow for accumulation of fats, oils, greases (FOG) and toilet paper. In addition, a broken PSL could allow for roots to grow into the lateral creating additional obstructions for FOG and waste, all of which may cause a sewer blockage and backup.

Cracked, broken, and/or offset laterals also allow groundwater intrusion, increasing sewage volumes. Increased sewer volumes can overwhelm wastewater collection, pumping and treatment facilities, causing untreated or partially treated sewage to be released into the environment.

## Preventing Sewage Overflows

These steps can help you avoid the unpleasant and usually costly experience of a sewage backup in your home.

- **"Flushable" Does Not Mean Flushable**



- Cleaning wipes, baby wipes, facial wipes, and paper towels are some of the biggest causes of (or contributors to) sewer back-ups in the Humboldt Community Service District. That's right - even if the package says "flushable" or "disposable", they should **NEVER** be flushed. They belong in the trash.
- Flush only toilet paper, put trash in the trash can. Help prevent costly sewer problems and keep our environment safe from sanitary sewer backups and overflows!

- Flush only the "3 P's":
- Pee
- Poop
- Toilet Paper

***No Wipes. No Paper Towels!***

- Install or raise sewer clean outs to grade. This provides easy access for monitoring and maintenance of your private sewer lateral.
- Have your private sewer lateral inspected periodically. If deficiencies are discovered, immediately have the deficiencies cleaned, repaired or replaced.
- Do not pour fats, oil or grease down drains or into toilets. Collect waste cooking oil in a container with a tight-fitting lid and take it to a hazardous waste collection center. Greasy pans should be wiped with a paper towel when cool to the touch. Then place the paper towel in the garbage can. If your cooking waste turns to solid at room temperature, it will cling to the sides of your sewer lateral, and can eventually cause a blockage.
- 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, consider having 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.
- Fixing damaged PSLs helps prevent sewage overflows and assists in protecting the environment.

**To report a sewer backup, call: (707) 499-0155 (24hr/day)**