

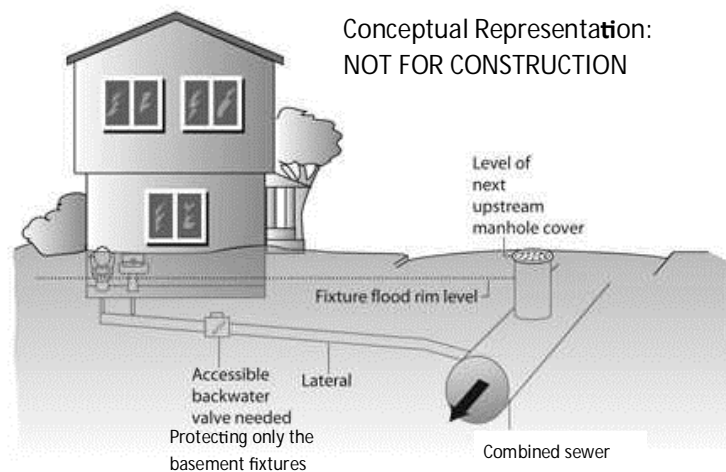


FACT SHEET: BACKWATER PROTECTION

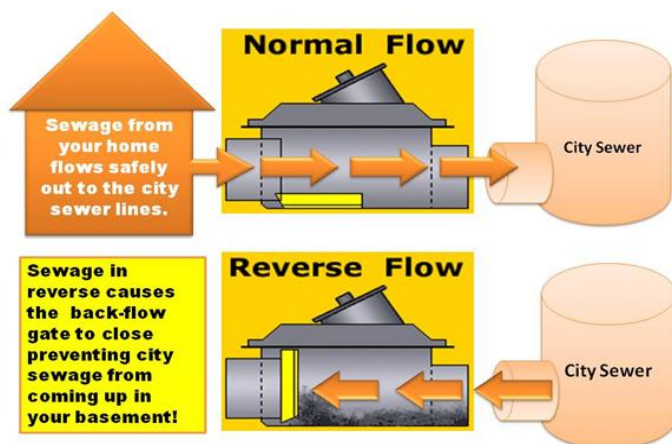
Preventing Storm Related Sewage Backups

Why might we need a backwater protection?

If you have a basement or other low lying floor with plumbing fixtures (toilet, shower, washing machine, floor drain etc.) at elevations that are lower than the elevation of the top of the manhole in the street and/or you have experienced sewer back ups during storm events, backwater/backflow protection is required.



Protective Plumbing: Backwater Valves



What is a backwater valve?

A backwater valve sits inside a home's sewer service. Its job is to prevent sewage and stormwater from returning up a sanitary sewer line and entering the home (typically the basement) when the street line is running full (as occurs during extreme storm events). It is an effective last line of defense and is required for all homes with basement plumbing fixtures.

Is a backwater valve right for my property?

A plumber must evaluate your property and recommend whether a backwater valve is appropriate, and if so, where and what type to install. It is important that an experienced plumber determine which is right for your particular situation. There are three primary types of backwater valves. (See Fact Sheet: Types of Backwater Protection). Backwater protection must be installed by a licensed plumber. A City plumbing permit and inspections are required.

Do I need to maintain my backwater valve?

Yes! Maintenance must be performed on a regular schedule in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation. A properly operating backwater valve allows flow to only go in one direction (out), preventing sewage and stormwater from entering your home.