

SEWER BACKUPS

WHAT TO DO

AND

HOW TO PREVENT

Disclaimer: The following will explain Village policies and the actions you should consider. In no way does it obligate the Village to assist in any repair or clean-up, nor is any financial liability offered or acknowledged.

Blockage in the Private Sewer Service:

Municipal Code Section 25-89 states that the maintenance and repair of private sewer services are the property owner's responsibility. Your sewer service should be cleaned immediately to eliminate the blockage. There are several possible causes. We recommend that a professional service be contacted, and several local firms are identified below.

The following local-area contractors have indicated that they have capabilities to provide sewer cleaning and repair services. The Village offers this information to property owners as a reference and does not endorse, recommend or intend to exclude any and all service providers. *The Village does not assume any financial responsibility for such services.*

Local Plumbing Contractors

Arrow Plumbing	847-549-9600
VJ Killian	847-680-1011
Shull Plumbing	847-362-8330
DJ Plumbing & Service	847-362-1121
Duba Plumbing, Inc	847-362-0045

If you have sustained damage, you should contact your insurance carrier. We recommend that pictures be taken. Several cleaning companies are listed below:

Cleaning Contractors

Service Master	847-367-4141
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Blockages that occurred in the Public Sewer:

The Village maintains its sewers on a regular basis, but due to the fact that there is no way to control inappropriate debris placed into the sewer, the Illinois Tort Immunity Act exempts the Village from fault of sewer back-ups when there is no knowledge of the blockage or negligence on the part of the Village.

If you have sustained damage, you should contact your insurance carrier. We recommend that pictures be taken. Please refer back to the cleaning contractors listed above.

The Village will attempt to determine the cause of the blockage and will monitor the sewer lines and perform routine maintenance as appropriate.

How to Prevent a Reoccurrence

1. Typical causes of sewer blockage are tree root intrusion, debris buildup, improper disposal of non-degradable materials, and pipe defects. Routine cleaning and/or internal TV inspection performed by a professional service may prevent or detect these problems before a backup develops. Backups can also occur if public sewers overflow due to heavy rainfall.
2. Refer to the following pages for information regarding typical sewer configurations and for possible protective measures that you may wish to consider.
3. For clarification and additional information you may contact Village staff:

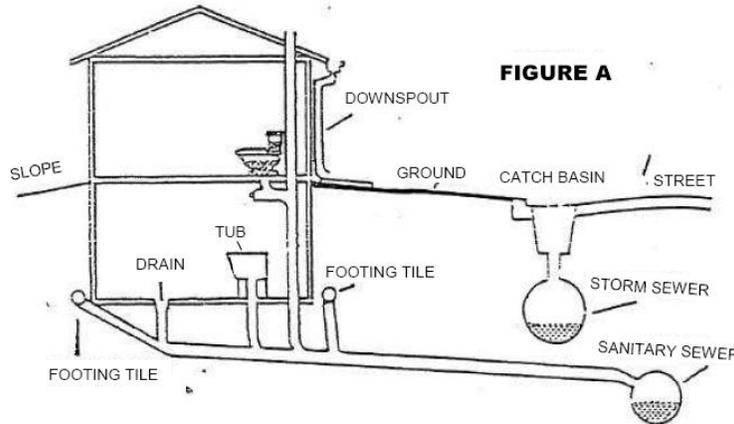
Streets & Utilities Superintendent ...847-362-3434

Plumbing Inspector.....847-918-2019

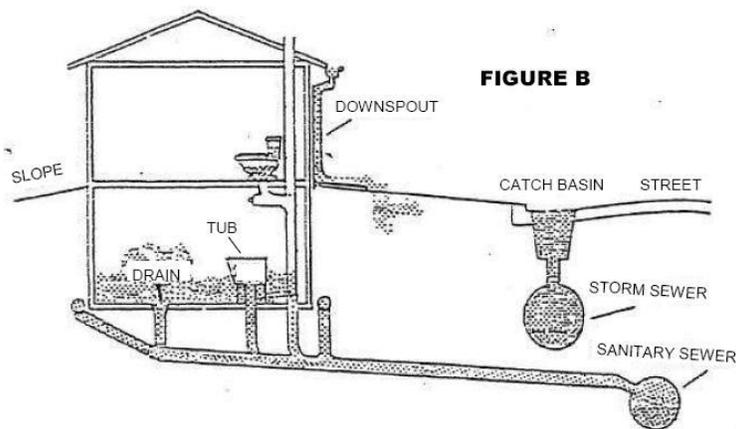
Director of Public Works.....847-918-2100

YOUR PRIVATE SEWER SYSTEM:

Libertyville has a separate sewer system – a public sanitary sewer for impure wastes and a public storm sewer for clean water. Most houses built before 1960 have footing tiles connected to the sanitary sewer. Those built later usually have stormwater sump pumps that discharge water from footing tiles into storm sewers or onto the ground.



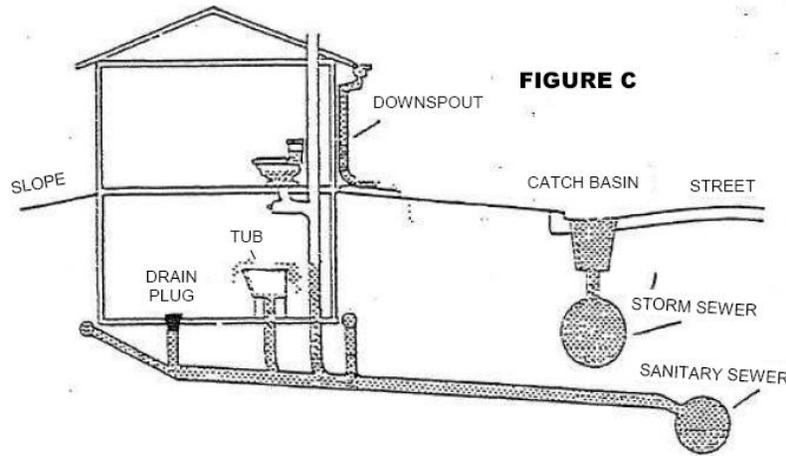
Under ideal conditions, an unprotected basement (see Figure A above) could remain dry. Nature does not provide ideal conditions, however, and an unprotected basement floods in wet weather.



The public sanitary sewer fills up and causes problems in rainy weather, not because any more septic waste is going in, but because of INFILTRATION (groundwater entering the sanitary sewer through cracks and breaks in the lines of both public and private sewer, some of which are more than 50 years old) and INFLOW (illegal connections, such as downspouts, sump pumps, footing tiles and drains from window wells and areaways.)

The Village has inspected downspouts and required those connected to sanitary sewers to be disconnected. In houses where they have not been disconnected (or where they have been reconnected for some reason), the basement flooding problem is worsened.

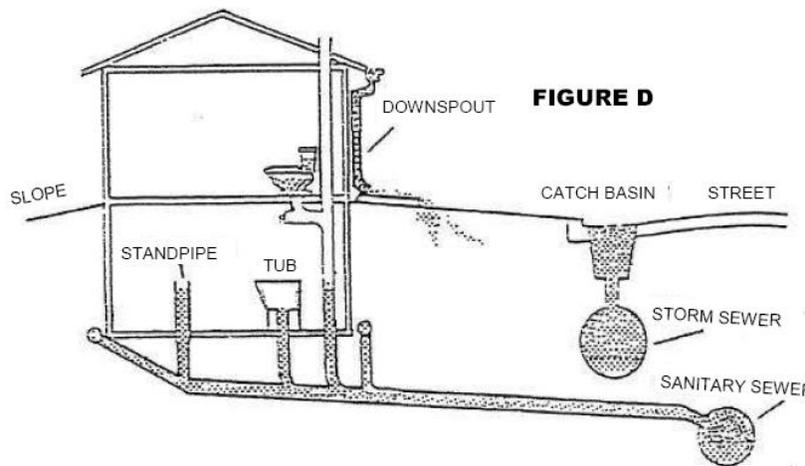
WAYS OF PREVENTING SANITARY SEWER BACKUP IN YOUR BASMENT:



1. INSERT A PLUG IN THE FLOOR DRAIN DURING HEAVY RAINS (see Figure C above)

Advantages: Inexpensive and easy

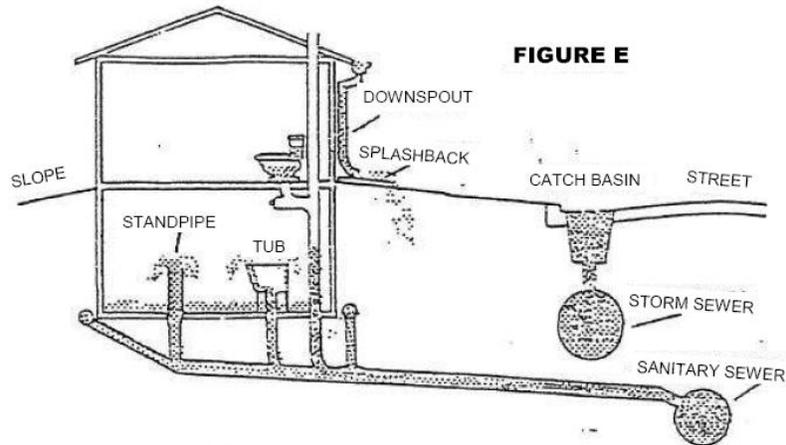
Disadvantages: Plug can be forced out by water pressure. Screw-in type can cause the sewer pipe to break from water pressure. Backup can seek the next higher opening (wash-tub or basement toilet.)



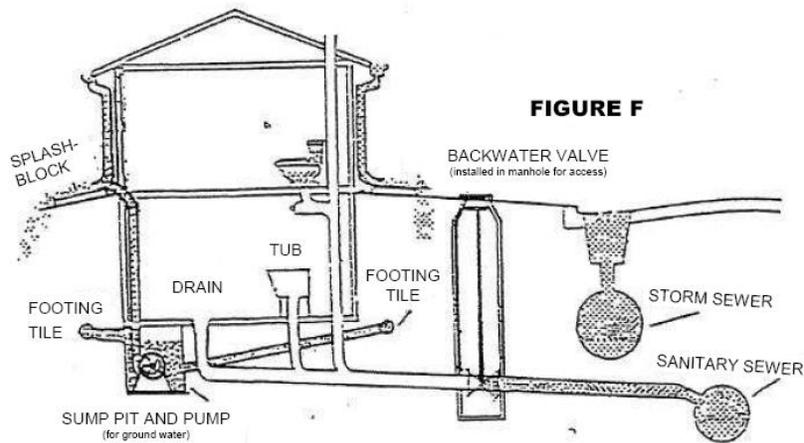
2. INSERT A STANDPIPE IN THE FLOOR DRAIN (see Figure D above)

Advantages: Inexpensive, easy, can be left in place permanently if floor drain is not needed during dry weather, effective up to a point.

Disadvantages: After the point of effectiveness is passed, flooding occurs anyway. (See Figure E).



3. INSTALL A BACKWATER VALVE IN THE SANITARY SEWER LINE (see Figure F for installation outside the house) and a sump pit and pump for footing tiles in the basement (see Figure F).



Advantages: When closed, the valve prevents sanitary back-up.

Disadvantages: The house plumbing cannot be used while the valve is closed. Installation of either automatic or manual backwater valve must be accessible for servicing, because valves need regular service to be dependable. (Either type can be jammed open by solid wastes or can “freeze” shut during periods of infrequent use.) Note that splash blocks (or downspout extensions of some kind)

should be placed on the ground to lead downspout water away from the foundation of the house.

4. **INSTALL AN OVERHEAD SEWER** (see Figure G) along the basement ceiling, emptying through the basement wall and the foundation of the house, rather than under the basement floor. Wastes from upstairs toilets and sinks flows directly into the overhead line by gravity. Basement wastes flow into a sealed pump pit and is pumped up above the level of the public sanitary sewer. If there is a toilet in the basement, an ejector pump (instead of an ordinary sump pump) is needed to take care of the solid waste. Automatic check valves (built into most pumps) are added protection against sewer backup. When an overhead sewer is installed, footing drains must be disconnected from the sanitary sewer and connected to the stormwater sump pit.

Only Disadvantage: An alternate power source (battery back-up or gasoline powered generator) is needed in case of power failure during a heavy rain storm. Some pumps are available with battery packs.

