

## Sanitary Sewer

Q. I smell sewer odors inside my house/building. What do I do?

A.

- Check the caps on floor traps and cleanouts to ensure proper installation
- Check drains and make sure water is in the trap
- Check and make sure cleanout plugs are removed from the inside of floor drains
- Make sure there are no cracked or separated vent pipes in the interior of the structure that will allow sewer gas into your house/building
- Visually check for one of these conditions and correct if needed. If odor problems continue, have your plumber check out the entire house system for any drain system air leaks

Q. What happens if sewage backs up in my house/building?

A. First, contact City of Grain Valley Public Works Maintenance Division 816.847.0091. A crew will respond to address the situation. If water does not recede after City crews clean the City sanitary sewer line, you should contact a professional plumber to have your home's service line cleared.

Q. Why are there flags in my yard?

A. It is generally because there is excavation work being planned in the area and the person, company or utility planning the work has requested "locates". The flags mark the location of buried utility lines. Before The City of Grain Valley would do any major excavation work on your property you will receive a letter on your door unless an emergency situation exists.

Q. Why did you put that manhole in my yard?

A. When manholes are built, the tops of the manholes are left accessible. Later when homes and businesses are built, manholes are occasionally buried in yards and driveways. The Sewer Maintenance Staff uncovers these "lost" manholes and adjusts the manholes to grade so they are accessible again. Having the manhole exposed will benefit the homeowner in a sewer emergency and reduce treatment costs.

Q. What is a sewer lateral?

A. A sewer lateral is the pipe that carries wastewater from a home or business to the sanitary sewer main line in the street or easement

Q. Where does my responsibility end?

A. Property owners are responsible for their laterals from their home or business to the sanitary sewer main line.

Q. Why can't I pipe my sump pump, house drains, and footer drains into my sanitary sewer lateral?

A. The City of Grain Valley and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources prohibits storm water discharges into the sanitary sewer system. This is to prevent overtaxing sewers which causes backups and also to minimize the amount of water that needs to be treated, which has an impact on your sewer rates.

Q. Can I landscape around the sewer manhole?

A. The City recommends that all infrastructure items such as water meters, hydrants and valves are clear of any obstructions within a 3' radius. This will benefit the City and the homeowner by providing faster access and avoid damages to landscaping.