



Three Lakes Water & Sanitation District operations personnel are very familiar with the various problems related to sanitary sewer service lines. These problems can include root intrusion, grease, holes and cracks in the pipe, separated or offset joints, and sags due to ground settlement.

Maintenance and repair of sewer services in the District are the sole responsibility of the property owner. The District wants to be sure that you are familiar with the types of problems that can occur in your service, and what you can do to fix them or try to prevent them.

One of the most common problems is tree **roots** growing into the service line. There are many service lines in the District's service area that are made up of clay pipe, which is highly susceptible to root intrusion (newer areas have plastic pipe for sewer services). If a customer is having problems with their sewer service, i.e. sewer backups, this could be due to root intrusion. If you feel that you have root intrusion, you may want to take the following steps:

Line Maintenance and Inspection

Root Sawing and Treatment - The first step would be to have your line root sawed and, if you wish, chemically treated. Sawing is a mechanical process that involves a spiral shaped saw blade that conforms to the inside diameter of the pipe to cut the tree roots. Since these roots are similar to other deciduous plants or tree forms, the roots typically multiply, or grow back in a larger volume. Another option, therefore, is to treat the roots with a herbicide. Generally, these chemicals do not damage the tree, but rather retard root growth. These products, which are sold at hardware stores, are generally effective for a one-year period and must be reapplied on an annual basis.

TV/Video – If problems still exist after root sawing your service line, then the second step would be to have your service line visually inspected. Visual inspection of service lines is available through current technology to locate problems within the lines. This process involves the insertion of a mini camera through a floor drain or cleanout to visually inspect service lines between the residence and the main line. Visual inspection of your service line may identify **broken pipe, sags due to settlement, separated joints, or deterioration**.

Line Rehabilitation

Line Replacement – Upon investigation of your service by visual inspection, you may find that your problem is from sags due to settlement, broken pipe, separated joints, or deterioration. In this case, you may need to replace portions or all of your service line. Plastic pipe is now generally used in all new construction of sewer services. This pipe is manufactured in longer lengths than the older clay or concrete pipe. Fewer joints mean less potential points of root entry.

Pipe Bursting – This minimal excavation method may be an option for line replacement if the problem is roots, cracked pipe, broken pipe, or a minimal sag. This method involves digging an access pit at each end of the damaged pipe and running a pipe-bursting tool through the existing pipe which then pulls the new pipe into place.

Pipe Lining – This lining technique may be an option if there are no sags in the damaged pipe and if any breaks or separated joints are not too severe. This rehabilitation method usually requires minimal digging. A resin-saturated felt tube is inverted or pulled into the damaged pipe. Then hot water or steam is used to cure the resin and form a tight-fitting jointless replacement pipe. This technique does slightly reduce the diameter of the pipe. However, it can be less expensive than traditional line replacement due to minimal or no excavation.

Grease will accumulate in the service line and eventually into our main lines from dumping food items containing grease whether it be directly down the sink or via a food disposal system. This can cause not only a sewer backup but also can cause odors to emit out of your drains. We ask that you be very careful with what is dumped down a drain or disposal in your home in the way of food items.

Please note that most homeowners' insurance policies do not cover damage related to service line or main line sewage backups. It is highly recommended that you check with your insurance carrier to find out if this coverage is included in your policy, or if you can have it added.

If you have any questions regarding your sanitary sewer service, please contact a local plumber of your choice to share your concerns and review your options to correct them.

OUR WEBSITE PROVIDES GOOD INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT SUCH AS AGENDAS, MEETING MINUTES, RULES & REGULATIONS AND MUCH MORE: www.threelakessanitation.com