

PROPER CARE OF YOUR SEWER LINE

How can I maintain my private sewer lateral and prevent problems?

- Two of the more common tools for clearing a private sewer line yourself are a “Drain King” and manual hand snake.
- Know the locations of cleanouts for quick access to clear blockages and prevent backups.
- Install cleanouts, as needed, to provide access for equipment to remove blockages.
- Keep cleanout caps in place and secured properly. This keeps out rain and debris that can cause blockages, back-ups and overflows.
- Clear roots, grease, debris, and other blockages in the lateral all the way to the connection to the sewer main or to the property line cleanout if one exists.
- Do not put wipes down the pipes. Although many “flushable” wipes can go down the toilet, they do not dissolve and often cause issues in plumbing and for TUD’s sewer mains.
- Contact TUD prior to cleaning private laterals. In some cases, obstructions can be pushed out into the public sewer main causing a blockage in main line.
- Avoid connecting gutters or yard drains to the sewer.



PRIVATE LATERAL REPAIR METHODS

Dig and replace is the most common method for repairing private sewer pipelines; however, trenchless technologies, such as, lining and pipe bursting, allow for repair and replacement of a sewer pipeline without excavation.

Trenchless technologies are often ideal for repair of private sewer lines under established landscaping and roads where the cost of trenching could be considerable.

Consult a plumber for which options are available for your specific circumstance.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Preventing sewer backups in your home is easy and free!

Installing a sewer relief valve (popper) on your existing property line cleanout is simple and can save you from the unpleasant and costly experience of sewer backups in your home.

Sewer relief valves are available free of charge at the TUD office (one per customer.) TUD staff can assist you in locating your sewer cleanout and if not found, can recommend the location where one should be installed.



Call before you dig!
It's the law and it's free!

USA North
Dial 811 or 1-800-642-2444

Tuolumne Utilities District

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TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT

PRIVATE SEWER LATERALS

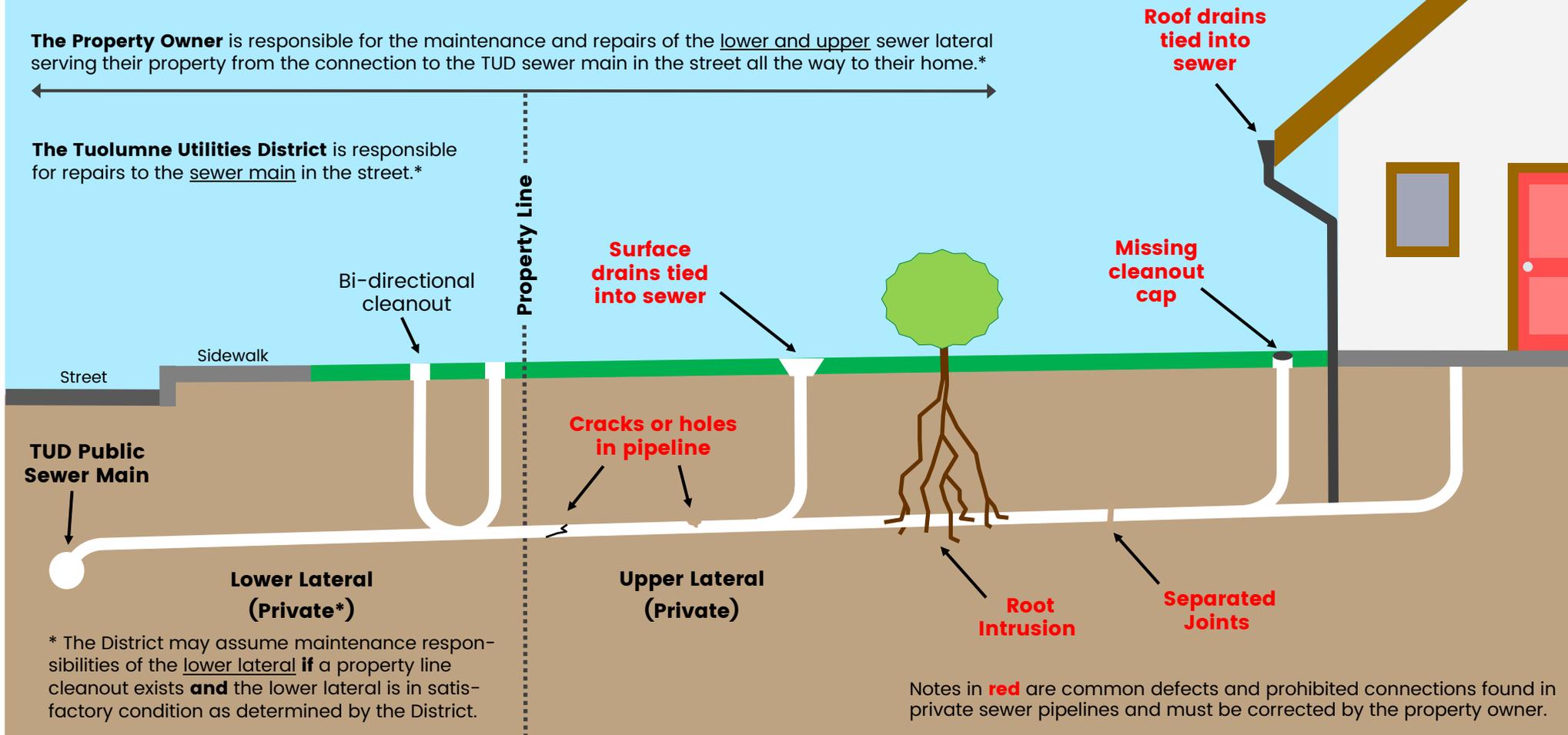
A property owner’s guide to understanding their responsibility for maintenance and repair of the private sewer lateral serving their property.



The Tuolumne Utilities District works hard to provide reliable and safe sewer service to the community; however, from time to time, sewer issues occur in pipelines belonging to the private property owner. This diagram is intended to assist the property owner in understanding their responsibility for maintenance and repair of the private sewer lateral serving their property.

The Property Owner is responsible for the maintenance and repairs of the lower and upper sewer lateral serving their property from the connection to the TUD sewer main in the street all the way to their home.*

The Tuolumne Utilities District is responsible for repairs to the sewer main in the street.*



* The District may assume maintenance responsibilities of the lower lateral **if** a property line cleanout exists **and** the lower lateral is in satisfactory condition as determined by the District.

Notes in **red** are common defects and prohibited connections found in private sewer pipelines and must be corrected by the property owner.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A SEWER PLUG?

If you have a sewer plug in your home you should locate your property line cleanout, typically at the edge of the road, and unscrew the cap.

If no sewer discharges from the cleanout, the blockage is likely a customer side issue and the property owner is advised to contact a private plumber.

If sewer discharges from the cleanout, then the blockage may be on the TUD side and you should contact TUD immediately at (209) 532-5536.

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE A PROPERTY LINE CLEANOUT?

If you have a sewer plug in your home and you do not have a property line cleanout you will need to have one installed before the District can assist you.

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance and repairs of the sewer line from their home all the way to the connection to the public sewer main in the street. In some cases, if a bi-directional cleanout is installed at the property line by the owner and the lower portion of sewer lateral is in satisfactory condition as determined by the District, the District may assume maintenance of the lower sewer lateral.