

City of Charlestown Sanitary Sewer Board Policy Regarding the Operation and Maintenance of Private Sewer Laterals

1. Except as set forth below, the property owners are responsible for the Maintenance of the sewer lateral line. "Sewer lateral line" is defined as the sewer line running from a home, dwelling, outbuilding, or other portion of the owner's private property to the point of connection with the City's collector sewer, regardless whether that connection occurs on or under the owner's property. "Maintenance" is defined herein as maintaining an open conduit or passage to the main sewer including without limitation root cutting, rodding, jetting or any means necessary to clear blockage inside the pipe.
2. Sewer lateral lines shall be regularly and adequately maintained by the property owners, so as to prevent sewer blockages or spills caused by damage to the lateral.
3. All property owners shall notify the Operator of the City's sanitary sewer system or his or her explicit designee (the "Operator") in advance of any interference, including repair or cleaning of the sewer lateral line, whether performed by the property owner or a contractor. In the event of emergency service to the lateral line, the owner or contractor shall notify the Operator immediately following the performance of the maintenance, in order that the City may take reasonable measures to accommodate material and debris that is removed or discharged/leaked into the City's collection system.
4. To the extent possible, materials causing a blockage of the sewer lateral line shall be removed by the property owner and not discharged/leaked into the City's collection system.
5. In the event of a structural pipe failure or malfunction of a sewer lateral line past the property line or inside a "Right of Way" and within twenty (20) days thereafter, the affected property owner is responsible for notifying the Operator of such structural pipe failure or malfunction and hiring a licensed engineer

and/or licensed plumber to evidence the nature and location of the failure or malfunction by whatever means necessary, including televising with radio frequency locating being the minimum requirement for location/depth when the failure or malfunction location is not obvious. Locating must be witnessed by the Operator. "Structural pipe failure" is defined herein as a collapsed pipe causing a blockage or discharge/leak from the home, dwelling, outbuilding, or other portion of the owner's private property, regardless whether that failure occurs on or under the owner's property

6. Unless the property owner can demonstrate to the Operator's satisfaction that the failure or malfunction of the structural pipe was caused solely by the City, the City shall have no obligations with respect to repairing such pipe or otherwise restoring service to the property owner.