

Sewer Back-Up Policy

Below is a brief overview of the Town of Mooresville's Sewer Back-Up Policy adopted by the Town Board of Commissioners in October 2007. To view the entire policy, visit the Town's web site at www.ci.mooresville.nc.us.

The Town of Mooresville Water & Sewer Maintenance Section makes a concerted effort, through an intensive preventive maintenance program, to keep the 200+ miles of sewer system in a good state of repair. Occasionally, however, conditions develop within the system that may cause sewage to back-up into a residence or business.

The Town of Mooresville is responsible for maintaining sewer mains and manholes which are located in public rights-of-way (Town and State maintained roads) and Town-owned easements. Property owners are responsible for maintaining sewer laterals. The purpose of this policy is to make clear the property owner's responsibilities concerning the sewage lines located on their property and the steps a property owner should take if a sewage back-up occurs.

Property Owner's Responsibility

A property owner is responsible for keeping the building sewer line free from blockages between the structure(s) being served and the sewer main.

If a customer discovers a problem with his/her sewer connection and/or lateral, the customer should contact the Water & Sewer Maintenance Section and request that Water & Sewer Maintenance personnel troubleshoot the cause of the problem. Water & Sewer Maintenance will respond by inspecting the downstream wastewater collection main and the sewer lateral if a clean-out is located at the edge of and within the public road or utility right-of-way. The Town will assist property owners in locating the problem, advise the property owner on action needed, and correct the problem if it is a Town responsibility. The Town of Mooresville Water & Sewer Maintenance crews are experienced employees who may be able to suggest a solution to your problem. However, they are NOT authorized to enter and clear stoppages on private property.

The Town will not pay for private plumber bills unless the Town directs that a plumber be called to solve a problem that is the Town's responsibility. Property owners are advised to call the Town immediately in the event of sewer back-ups, which could possibly be caused by a problem in Town-maintained lines.

If a property owner has experienced a sewer back-up or if the residence or business is located in a low area or is lower than the street level, we suggest that a licensed plumber be consulted about the possibility of installing a backwater prevention device. This device, if properly installed and MAINTAINED, can prevent sewer from backing up into a house's or business' plumbing. The installation and maintenance of a backwater prevention device is the customer's responsibility and at the customer's expense.

Property owners should be aware that many property insurance policies exclude damage from sewer back-ups. It is suggested that property owners check their policies and add this coverage. The Town will only pay for damage caused by negligence on the part of the Town.

For more information about this policy, visit the Town's web site at www.ci.mooresville.nc.us/utilities or call the Water & Sewer Maintenance Section at the following numbers:

Water & Sewer Maintenance
Office 704-664-3705
After Hours Emergencies 704-664-3311