

SEWER BACK UP

Sewer blockages can happen at any time. If a sewer blockage is suspected, avoid flushing toilets and using the sink, tub and shower drains until the source of the sewer backup has been corrected. Your sewer pipe and Village sewers deteriorate over time. Pipes can become blocked or even collapse due to many different causes; including flushing inappropriate items, tree roots, buildup of waste, fats, or oil and grease. Here are the steps to take when faced with a sewer backup.

1. Call for help – Village of Vibank Public Works Department 306-550-5957

- Public Works will then direct you to call a certified plumber to clean and camera your line.
- There are many Sanitary Sewer Plumbers you can call, below is a PARTIAL list of contractors that have been out to the Village in the past. The Village does not recommend any particular service. Home owner is responsible to pay for the service at the time the service is performed. In some rare circumstances the Village may pay for the service, the home owner will be billed for the service and if it is unpaid within 60 days it will be added to the property taxes and subject to 15% interest.
 - Acme Plumbing 306-569-3022
 - Atlas Plumbing 306-924-1098
 - Action Plumbing – 306-586-2726
 - Douglas Plumbing – Neil 306-539-7900
 - Roto Rooter – 306-359-3996
- Request that the plumber “camera the line” this is a video inspection of your service and is necessary to determine the cause and exact location of the blockage.
- You must provide the Village with a USB of the line, if it is determined that the blockage is within in the Village’s central line.
- USB should be requested at time of service call, as not all plumbers provide one.

2. Locate the sewer cleanout and ensure access

- A cleanout is normally located in the basement of the house where the sewer pipe exits the home (by the foundation wall or in the basement floor).
- Some homes have been constructed with a two-way cleanout, normally located outside the home by the foundation wall where the internal plumbing exits the house.
- The cleanout must be accessible to unblock the sewer.
- A home's sewer cleanout must be located and accessible. Please provide a clear path to the cleanout and make sure it is fully exposed to allow specialized machinery to be used.

3. For your protection

- Notify a plumber if unable to unclog the blockage. (At home with a plunger)

VILLAGE OF VIBANK SANITARY SEWER BLOCKAGE

2020

- It may be possible that an underground gas utility has intersected with the sewer pipe outside your home. Call Sask First Call at: 866 - 828-4888.
- The gas utility will locate the natural gas lines and work with the plumber or resident to ensure no damage is caused.
- There is no cost to the homeowner for this service.

Residents are encouraged to view Policy 2019-004 Water and Sewer line repair policy, available on line at: <https://vibank.ca/municipal/bylaws-policies/>

What can cause a sewer blockage?

The most common cause of backed up drains or basement flooding in a home is a blockage in the sewer pipe connecting the home to the sanitary sewer on the street.

This is most commonly caused by:

- tree roots growing into the pipe and/or
- too much fat, oil or grease buildup in the pipe
- improper disposal of items such as rags, wipes, toys, garbage, diapers, sanitary napkins, etc.
- structural concerns such as breaks and collapse of old deteriorated sanitary sewer laterals

How long does it usually take to clear a blockage?

Depending on the nature of the blockage, it may take two hours or more for a crew of two staff to clear a blockage and conduct a video inspection of the sewer lateral after it has been cleared.

What if the cleanout cannot be found or the location is not known or inaccessible?

The cleanout cap and other internal plumbing is the owner's responsibility to maintain. If the cap is damaged upon removal, it is the owner's responsibility to repair.

In some situations, the blockage will not be able to be cleared through a cleanout. Depending on the location of the blockage (private side or Village side), the owner or the Village may need to excavate so that the pipe can be repaired or replaced.

Any cleaning area after the work is completed is the responsibility of the owner.