



**Anne Arundel County
Department of Public
Works**

2662 Riva Road
Annapolis, MD 21401-7374
www.aacounty.org/dpw

Important Contacts:

(410) 222-8400
24-hour Emergency Service for
Utilities

(410) 222-0600
Office of Emergency
Management

(410) 222-2222
Constituent Services

(410) 222-8050
Police Department

(410) 222-8200
Fire Department

(410) 222-1144
Utilities Billing Information

Preventing Sewer Backups

A Homeowner's Guide

The following information serves as a homeowner's guide to prevent backups from occurring and to the steps you should take to protect your property just in case you have to deal with this type of problem.

Plumbing 101?

Each day, millions of gallons of wastewater flows safely through small lines on your property to the larger county lines under the street. From the county lines, the sewage travels to one of the County's seven water reclamation facilities. Once wastewater is reclaimed, it is returned to the environment.

This quiet out of sight process can rear its ugly head when blockages occur in the private or county sewer line. The backed-up sewage will return to your home at its lowest points. Generally, through floor drains and basement toilets. The overflow will continue until the blockage is removed or until sewage is no longer entering the line.

Potential Causes	What to Do...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen grease, disposable diapers and sanitary napkin accumulation. • Tree roots growing through cracks in the lines. • Putting harmful objects in manholes like bricks, wood, oil filters, bed springs and even Christmas trees. • Illegal connections to system allow excess water in County lines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call Emergency Services at 410-222-8400. • Sewer cleanouts help technicians determine if blockage is in customer or County line. If in county line, crews will break blockage. • Homeowners will need to contact a plumber when cleanout is inaccessible. • Discontinue inside water use.



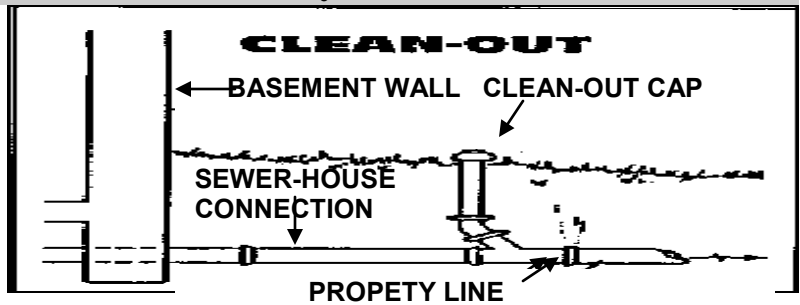
Anne Arundel County Executive
John R. Leopold



Preventing Sewer Back-ups continued....Where is my cleanout?

The cleanout is a pipe located near the property line that rises from your sewer line to about 4" above ground level and is capped.

The clean-out is property owner's responsibility. If buried, a registered plumber should be able to locate and raise it. If hidden, you will need to make it easy for our crews to find.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: A backup of sewage or water may occur through no fault of anyone. In this unlikely event, the County may not be responsible for the resulting damages. Please check your homeowner's policy. If you are not covered for this type of backup, obtain costs and coverage options from your insurance agent. If you do experience a back-up, save all receipts related to repair, cleaning and damages..

Back-Up Prevention Do's and Don'ts

Do install a plumber's test plug (available at hardware stores) at the lowest floor drain in your home.

Do have a backflow valve on the lowest drain line installed. Regularly inspect and maintain valves.

Do modify the plumbing line so water is pumped to an upper level drain, eliminating lower level drain.

Don't flush diapers or sanitary napkins .

Don't put grease or harmful liquids down drain.

Don't plant trees near sewer lines.

Don't connect any drains or sump pumps.. Illegal connections add excess water to public sewer system.

RainScaping.org
Beautiful Solutions to Water Pollution

RAINSCAPING WORKS EVERYWHERE
To Keep Our Waterways Clean

Labels in the diagram: green roof, bio-planter, tree planter boxes, bioswale in parking lot with water & drought tolerant plants, permeable concrete, trees, rain barrel, downspout drains to rain garden, stormwater planter, narrower streets, curbs-inlet, permeable asphalt, permeable pavers.

WHEN IT RAINS IT DRAINS

Reduce runoff
SLOW IT DOWN

SPREAD IT OUT

SOAK IT IN!!!

For beautiful solutions to water pollution, visit
RainScaping.org

Working together, 42 (and growing) partners are implementing the RainScaping Campaign to improve the health of Anne Arundel County's tributaries and the Chesapeake Bay. The campaign highlights pollutants carried to our waterways in stormwater runoff such as sediment, excess nutrients from overuse of fertilizers, pesticides, oils, metals, and other contaminants; as well as the lack of natural filtering processes and infiltration. The RainScaping Campaign promotes a comprehensive approach to easy-to-use solutions to clean up our streams, creeks, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. RainScaping techniques such as rain gardens, native tree and shrub planting, rain barrels, and permeable pavers are proven and widely-accepted "beautiful landscaping techniques" that effectively manage stormwater runoff at the source, while protecting natural resources and providing wildlife habitat. **For Beautiful Solutions to Water Pollution, visit RainScaping.org!**