

BUILDING SEWER vs. LATERAL vs. SEWER MAIN: The building sewer is the pipe that extends from the connection point through your yard and into the building. The owner of the property is responsible for maintaining and cleaning the building sewer within the building as well as the line in the property up to the connection point. A cleanout is required past the connection point and is considered part of the building sewer. A sewer main is a pipeline, usually in the street or through a right-of-way that transports the sewage from many homes and buildings to the wastewater treatment plant. A sewer lateral is the short pipe line that extends from the sewer main to the curb line or property line, or where the building sewer connects. The Authority is responsible for the sewer lateral and sewer main only.

More often than not, the cause of a backup in the lateral or building sewer is from items that the line is not meant to handle, such as kid's toys, underwear, candles, towels, diapers, paper products (other than toilet paper), keys, and even false teeth. To avoid flushing these items, remember to close the toilet lid. What you flush down the toilet may not only affect you, but it might also cause problems for your neighbors! Another possible cause of problems could be roots in your building sewer. It's best not to plant trees or bushes above your building sewer. The building sewer is the responsibility of the owner of the property from the house to the connection point of the lateral. You will need to call a plumber or sewer/drain cleaning service. Check your Yellow Pages. MAWT cannot make a recommendation. It may be in your best interest to obtain several estimates.