

Sewage Inflow & Infiltration

Inflow occurs when rainwater is misdirected into the sanitary sewer system instead of storm sewers. Examples are: roof leaders, yard and area drains, manhole covers, sump pumps, and cross connections from storm drains. The remedy for inflow is to remove improper connections to the sanitary sewer system.

Infiltration occurs when ground water seeps into the sanitary sewer system through cracks or leaks in sewer pipes. The cracks or leaks may be caused by age related deterioration, loose joints, damage or root infiltration. The remedy for infiltration is repairing or replacing the leaking infrastructure. Ignored I&I results in excessive flows in the sewers. This becomes a very costly problem for all of us.

I&I affects the quantity of wastewater that needs to be treated, the capacity of the Authority's sewer pipes and ultimately, the rate residents pay to operate and maintain them. The worst impact of I&I is the possibility that the excess sewage flows out of the sewer pipe and into our environment.

Homeowners are responsible for maintaining their building sewers on their private property. You, as a homeowner, can reduce I&I from your property.

- Check that gutters and outside drains are not connected to the sewer system. Disconnect any drains that are found to be connected.
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs over building sewers. The roots can damage the structure of the sewer pipe and cause leaks.
- Make sure that the caps are on your cleanouts. Lawn mowers have a tendency to break the plastic caps. Replacement lids are available at your local hardware store.
- Ensure that basement drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer and install a sump pump to the stormwater drainage system instead.
- Replace any known broken, leaky or problem sections of sewer pipe that are located on your property.