



Parkway Tree Root Intrusion Into Sewer Lateral - Policy and Procedures

Section 14.54.035 of the City of Huntington Beach Municipal Code addresses responsibilities for the operation, maintenance and repair of sewer laterals. The City is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the portion of the sewer lateral within the public right-of-way that extends from the City-owned sewer main to the private property line. The property owner is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the portion of the sewer lateral located on private property.

Reminder- liquid grease solidifies as it travels from your sink to the collection system down-stream and many items such as baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, eggshells and coffee grounds should not be flushed.

Sewer Lateral Program Procedure:

1. A property owner experiencing problems* with the sewer lateral calls the Public Works Utilities Division at (714) 536-5921, to notify them of the problem.
2. The property owner secures the services of a qualified contractor to clean and video tape the interior of the sewer lateral from the house cleanout to the public sewer main. While cleaning and/or video taping the lateral, it is important for the contractor to locate and mark the actual sewer lateral location at the property line, on the sidewalk, at the curb and at the connection with the sewer main. The use of water soluble spray paint to show the location of the sewer lateral is highly recommended as laterals are often at different angles and locations than portrayed on many record drawings.
3. The property owner submits a copy of the video to the Utilities Division staff at 19001 Huntington Street between the hours of 7:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.
4. The Utilities Division staff will review the video to determine the cause of the blockage, if and what type of repair is needed and *whether the location of the blockage and repair are within the City's right-of-way.*
5. Depending on the situation, there are typically two options for repair: 1) Slip Lining the sewer lateral within the public right-of-way and on the private property leaving the parkway tree intact. In this case, the city arborist needs to determine that the integrity of the tree will not be impacted by the repairs made to the sewer lateral. The property owner is responsible for the cost of slip lining the sewer lateral on their private property. 2) In a case where it is determined that the tree must be removed to complete the repair, and it falls within the City's responsibility, the City will initiate repairs at the City's cost and reimburse the cost of the video to the property owner.

Questions regarding the Sewer Lateral Program should be directed to the Public Works Utilities Division at (714) 536-5921. This information can also be reviewed at the City's website: www.surfcity-hb.org

*The first course of action for a blocked or clogged sewer line is a call to a qualified plumber or sewer contractor. Often times, cleaning of the line is needed immediately and residents should not wait for the claim process to be completed. The need for frequent cleaning/rooting of the line is an indication of a possible sewer lateral break or tree root intrusion.