

CITY RESPONSIBILITY

Municipal Liability for Sewage

When is the City responsible for damages?

Most often the cost for cleanup is the responsibility of the homeowner, even if it is related to a situation in the main sewer line.

The Illinois Tort Immunity Act generally exempts the City from fault related to basement flooding damages.

The public sewer system is not considered defective if the sewage backup was caused by a rain event greater than what the sewage system was designed to carry.

If you experience a sewer backup in your home, please contact the



Claim Report

Name _____

Address _____

Address Line 2 _____

Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Alternate Phone # _____

Type of Loss _____

Location of Loss _____

Date & Time of Loss _____

Details of Loss _____

***** Attach any additional information including photographs, repair estimates, or bills and send claim form to the address on front or email to risk@quincyl.gov**

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____



SEWER BACKUPS

DEPARTMENT OF RISK MANAGEMENT

— Wastewater Management Program —

What Is The Cause?

Who's Responsible?

How Can I Protect Myself?

730 Maine Street
Suite 213
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 228-4500
www.quincyl.gov

Sewer Backups....

A Messy Situation

There's nothing worse than coming home to find sewage has backed up into your basement, and if you have an improved basement, it can be even more devastating, and costly.



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Q What causes sewage backups?

A Accumulation of fats, oil and grease, or other debris thrown in the sewer system. Tree roots intrusion is another major issue for both the private and public sewer lines. Flushing items down the toilet that are too large for sewer lines to handle—such as toys and sanitary napkins—can cause backups. Another cause of blockages within the City's sewer system is from leaves, sticks, rocks, bricks, wood, clothing, toys and trash thrown into the sewer system or curb side catch basins.

Q What can I do to help?

A Call the Utilities Department (217-228-4520) if you notice any vandalism of sewer lines or manholes. This way, the debris can be removed before it causes a backup.

Do not dump cooking oils, butter, margarine or grease down your garbage disposal or any household drain. Not only could it accumulate in city lines, but also it could build up in your own lines, eventually requiring the services of a plumber.

Avoid use of a side mounted garbage disposal. Throw all food scraps in your solid waste container or compost.

Do not flush disposable diapers, sanitary napkins or tampon applicators down the toilet even if labels indicate that you can do so. Besides plugging your neighbors and your sewer lines, these items could damage your plumbing system.

Do not blow or throw leaves, branches, grass, rocks, bricks or other debris down the sewer system or on city streets.

Remember, putting any grease, diapers, sanitary products, yard waste or tree limbs down the sewer system could cause your neighbors basement to have a sewage backup.

Q What should I do if sewage begins to back up into my home?

A Call The Utilities Department at 217-228-4520. Our staff will inspect the city's sewer system. If a problem is in the city's sewer system, the city will take corrective action.

A quick check with nearby neighbors will help you determine if the blockage is widespread or limited to just your home.

Q Facts about the sewer system.

A The City of Quincy Utilities Department operates more than 300 miles of sanitary sewers and 6 pumping stations.

Q Who is responsible if the blockage is located in a customer's service line?

A Property owners are responsible for maintaining the private sewer line that extends from their property to the city's sewer system, including the connection to the sewer. Therefore, property owners are responsible for any damages resulting from blockages in the private sewer lines.

Q How can I protect myself?

A Homeowners are encouraged to carry sewer backup insurance as part of their homeowner's policy. Limits should be reviewed, to ensure adequate coverage.

Other precautions that can be taken:

By ordinance, sump pumps must not be connected to the public sanitary sewer system. Make sure roof drains and down spouts extend away from the house. Installing backflow preventers on the building sewer lines stops water from flowing backward and can prevent future issues.

If your sewer starts to drain slowly or backup slightly, have the problem checked out by a plumber immediately.