

Sewer Line Problems and Sewer Inspections

Trouble signs to watch for

- In most cases, homeowners are unaware of existing sewer line problems. However, any of the following may indicate sewer line damage.
 - Frequent need for drain cleaning
 - Rodent holes near the sewer line
 - Settlement damage to driveways, patios, foundations and retaining walls

Potential causes for sewer line trouble

- Age of the sewer line pipe is less of a factor than how much the pipe is used.
- Root intrusion is the most common problem with home sewer lines.
- Powerful root cutting machines can damage soft pipe materials such as terra cotta. As a result, they should not be used on a regular basis.

Sewer inspection process

- Residential sewer line inspectors today insert a camera and light array into the sewer pipe to film the interior of the pipe as it extends out to the public sewer line.
- Inspections are non-invasive.
- Some contractors can pinpoint the location of the problem with considerable accuracy.
- The inspection is usually recorded on videotape for future reference.

Party Lines

- Some homes share a sewer line with their neighbors, commonly called “party lines.”
- In these cases, homeowners may require the cooperation of their neighbors to inspect and repair the sewer line.