



## SEWER LATERAL REPAIR PROGRAM

The City of Maplewood repairs broken residential sewer lateral pipes. Presented here are the answers to common questions regarding the program.

1. **WHEN WAS THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED?**  
Voters approved a sewer lateral repair tax increase to \$50 on April 8, 2014.
2. **WHAT PROPERTIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?**  
Residential properties of six units or less are eligible.
3. **HOW AND WHEN WILL THE CITY COLLECT THE TAX?**  
The City of Maplewood contracts with the St. Louis County Department of Revenue to collect the tax. The tax levy appears on the St. Louis County real estate tax bill sent to property owners every year in the fall.
4. **WHO OWNS THE SEWER PIPES THAT SERVE MY HOME?**  
The sewer pipe, located underneath the basement floor of the home, which runs through the house foundation, through the yard, and connects to the sewer main pipe in the street (or alley), is property of the homeowner. The sewer main pipe is property of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District.
5. **WHAT REPAIRS ARE COVERED UNDER THE PROGRAM?**  
The program covers replacing defective pipe from the sewer main line in the street or alley to two feet (2') **outside** the building structure (which includes front porches and steps). The program does not include lost, buried or improperly installed cleanout access, pipe replacement in the foundation wall or pipe replacement underneath the basement floor. The program also does not cover the cost of cleaning by cabling, removal of tree roots or debris or hydroflushing. The program does not cover excavation work under porches.

6. **DOES THE PROPERTY OWNER PAY A PORTION OF THE COST OF THE REPAIR?**  
There is no charge to the property owner for a sewer lateral repair under the program.
7. **HOW DOES THE PROPERTY OWNER PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?**  
The property owner contacts the Maplewood Public Works Department (645-3600) when he or she has a sewer line that is defective. The property owner must present a bill or letter from a plumbing or sewer cabling company that indicates the pipe is broken, collapsed or severely shifted, or that the company was unable to open the sewer line. The property owner is responsible for having the line cabled and videotaped. Additionally, the homeowner must provide a copy of the tape to the Public Works Department. The property owner is not required to complete an application. After this confirmation is received, the location is added to the program list. Referrals are also received from the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District.
8. **WHO REPAIRS THE BROKEN LINE?**  
The Maplewood Public Works Department excavates, removes the defective pipe, backfills the excavation, restores the pavement and sidewalk, and reseeds of the lawn. Drain layers, licensed by St. Louis County, replace the sewer pipe. Firms are awarded the pipe replacement work by competitive bidding on an annual basis.
9. **WHAT IF THE BROKEN PIPE IS UNDERNEATH THE DRIVEWAY?**  
The Maplewood Public Works Department will replace the driveway at no charge to the property owner. Sometimes, it is not necessary to replace the entire driveway. The amount of driveway to be replaced is dependent on the amount of the defective sewer pipe found.
10. **WHAT IS THE AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR THE REPAIR OF THE SEWER LINE AFTER IT IS REPORTED TO THE CITY?**  
The average waiting time is thirty days if there is no immediate health or public safety hazards. If there is serious health or safety problem, the average wait is four calendar days.
11. **HOW IS THE PROPERTY OWNER CONTACTED BEFORE THE REPAIR WORK IS STARTED?**  
The Public Works Department will deliver a letter to the house notifying the occupant one to two days before beginning the job. Then the city's sewer video inspection contractor will contact the property owner by telephone to set a time to cable and video inspect the sewer line prior to digging.
12. **DO I HAVE TO BE HOME WHILE THE WORK IS DONE?**  
You are asked to be home when the sewer cabling and video inspection are done because it is sometimes necessary to begin cable operations from the basement drain. Once excavation is begun, it is not necessary to be home. You can use your toilet, sinks, shower, and washer while work is underway.

13. **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE A SEWER LATERAL REPAIR?**

Normally, it takes two days to excavate and replace the broken pipe. After the repair is made, the repair is inspected by a St. Louis County plumbing inspector, usually the following day. On the following day, the excavation is backfilled, and the lawn is seeded and strawed. No sodding is done. Final street paving is usually done four to six weeks later in order to ensure that no settlement occurs.

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