



Attention Property Owner

Protect your home from costly sewer damage



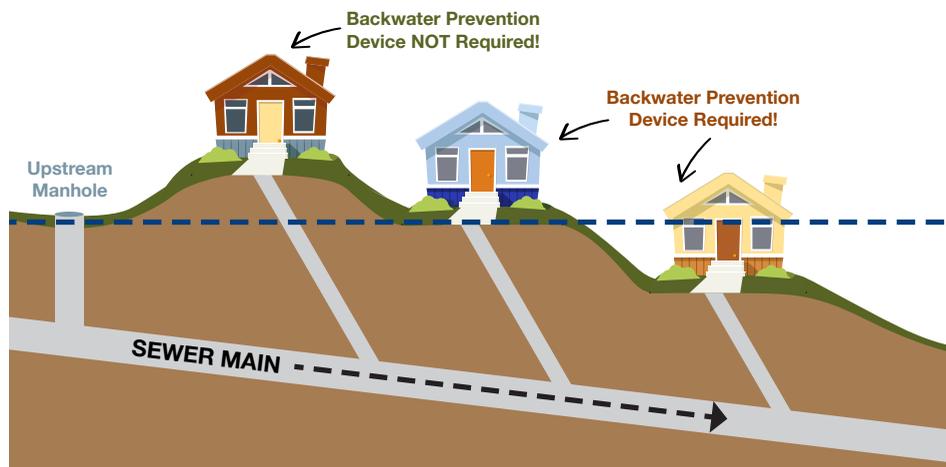
Sewer backups are not only unpleasant and inconvenient, but can also result in costly damage.

A backwater valve may prevent a sewer backup from occurring on your property. A backwater valve is a device, installed on your private sewer lateral that prevents outbound wastewater from re-entering your home or business.

*Per City Municipal Code 13.08.390, properties that have plumbing fixtures located below the elevation of the closest upstream manhole cover are **required** to install and maintain an approved backwater valve.*

Am I at risk?

If your home or business is **BELOW** the manhole, a backwater valve is **REQUIRED**.



How does the City combat blockages?

Sewer main blockages happen infrequently and are typically caused by roots, grease, wipes, and other items that can block flows.

The City has a comprehensive maintenance program of scheduled cleaning, repair, inspection, and sewer main replacement to minimize blockages. While the City works hard to eliminate blockages, they do happen and can create a sewer backup into your property. A backwater valve can protect your property.

Unsure if you need a backwater valve?

Contact a licensed plumber.

Property owners are responsible for the installation and maintenance of backwater valves. Backwater valves must meet the requirements of Section 710.1 of the California Plumbing Code. If you think you might need a backwater valve, or if you have questions about locating or checking the device, the City encourages you to contact a licensed plumber. They can evaluate your situation and, if necessary, install a backwater valve. A licensed plumber can also obtain the necessary plumbing permit through the City.



Source: City of SLO 2019 SSMP

If you are not the property owner and want to protect against potential uninsurable damage to your personal property, share these maintenance and preventive tips with your landlord, property manager, or the property owner.

For sewer emergencies please call the Utilities Department at 805-781-7215.