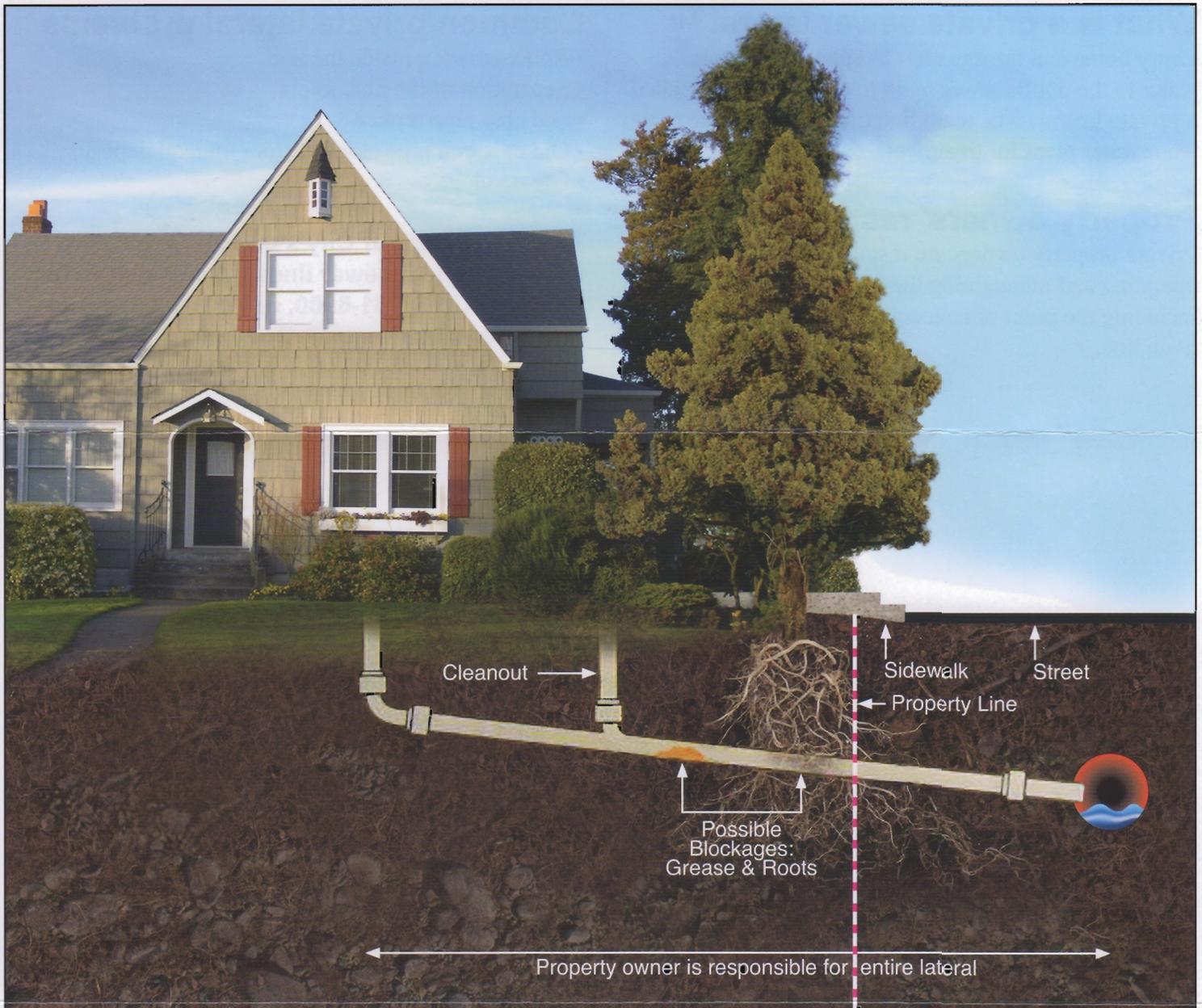


# Private Property Sewer Lateral



## How to maintain a functional sewer lateral

1. Have your sewer lateral video inspected and cleaned routinely as necessary.
2. Repair or replace deteriorated or damaged lateral pipes as soon as possible.
3. Do not plant trees or large scrubs near sewer lateral pipes.
4. Never pour grease down a drain. Instead, pour into a container, let it cool, and place in the trash.
5. Never pour paint or building materials down a drain.

## How to ensure that private lateral work is properly completed

1. Obtain more than one written cost estimate.
2. Use a licensed plumber and/or contractor and ask for references.
3. Make sure the written repair cost estimate includes a detailed description of the proposed work and time frame to get the work completed.
4. Make sure the proposed work in the estimate meets all applicable city codes, and building codes, the California Plumbing Code, and the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction "Green Book" Section 500 requirements and standards. For links to the applicable city codes and requirements, see [www.clbwq.net](http://www.clbwq.net) and search keyword "private lateral."
5. Review inspection video with the plumber and require a copy as part of the job.

# Sewer Lateral Maintenance

## What is a private sewer lateral?

Every home and business has a pipe that drains wastewater to the public sewer main line. That pipe is called a private lateral. The main line transports sewage to the wastewater plant for treatment.

## Property owners' responsibility

Private property owners are responsible for properly operating and maintaining their private laterals, including the point of connection to the public sewer main line.

## Common private lateral problems

- Roots growing inside the line
- Separation of the pipe joints
- Old clay pipe broken
- Old cast iron pipe clogged from mineral deposits
- Grease clogs

To learn about our City's policies regarding root damage to sewer lines, please call Public Works at (310) 781-6900, or visit our website at <http://www.TorranceCA.Gov/3471>

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City of Torrance Public Works  
20500 Madrona Avenue  
Torrance, CA 90503



## Torrance Public Works Department Private Sewer Lateral Maintenance Measures for Property Owners

The City of Torrance Municipal Code requires owners of private sewer laterals to maintain their lateral in a properly functioning manner. The proper maintenance of a private sewer lateral is important because the line can clog with roots and grease, and may cause a backup inside a home or business. A spill can also result in public and/or environmental health concerns.



City of Torrance Public Works  
For more information, call 310-781-6900  
or visit [www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks)