

## About Laterals

A **private sewer lateral** is an underground pipe that is part of your home's plumbing. It carries wastewater from your home to Columbia Water's sewer system.

Laterals should have a **cleanout** – a vertical pipe from the underground pipe to the surface with a removable cap for maintenance access.



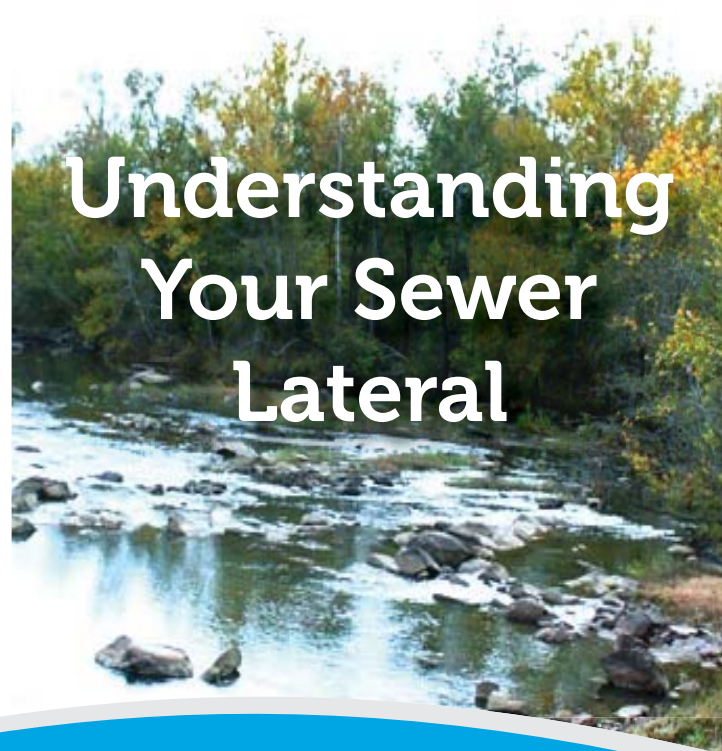
*Well-maintained cleanout cap vs. broken cleanout cap (smoke escapes during testing).*



### Contact Us

Call Customer Care with any water or sewer concerns at (803) 545-3300. Calls accepted 24/7/365.

# Understanding Your Sewer Lateral



## Columbia Water may be contacting you about your sewer lateral.

Columbia Water tests its sewer system for problems with City-owned pipes that need to be repaired. As part of this work, we are finding problems with privately owned sewer laterals.

When we find problems with privately owned pipelines, we notify the property owner that the pipeline needs to be repaired.



- Help protect your home and our environment
- Find sewer line problems needing repair

## Clean Water 2020

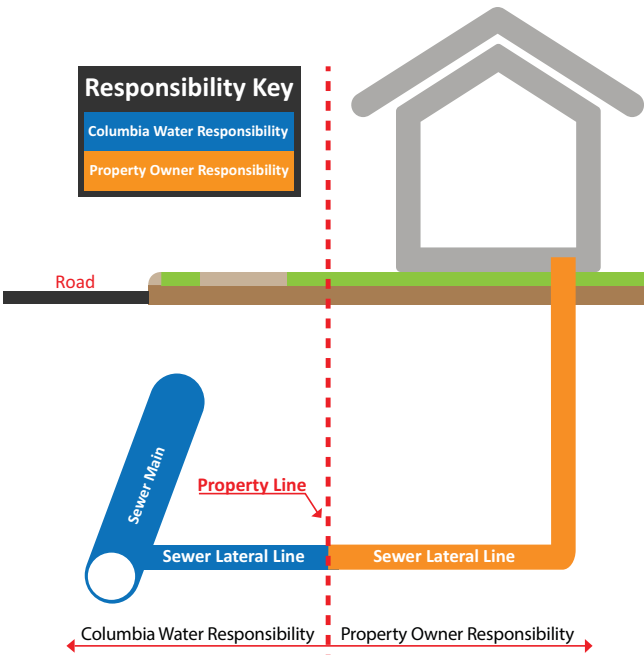
 Columbia's Clear Vision For Clean Water

# Property owners, your sewer lateral belongs to you!

If you own your home, you own the sewer lateral from the end of your home's internal plumbing to your property line. Frequently, a cleanout connection with Columbia Water's sewer is at this location.

Fixing defects now will avoid more costly problems in the future. Protect your home from potential damage by making the necessary repairs.

## Sewer Lateral Responsibility



## Stormwater and groundwater should NOT enter the sewer!



Sanitary sewer overflow in progress.

Stormwater and groundwater do not need to be treated at the wastewater treatment plant. A drainage system to handle extra stormwater or groundwater on your property should follow City regulations.

When stormwater or groundwater do enter a sewer pipeline, they become contaminated and add extra – unnecessary – flow to the sewer system.

Everyone ends up paying for this extra flow. Not only does it cost the City and its rate payers to transport and treat, it can also cause problems such as:

- Sanitary sewer overflows
- Backups in homes and buildings
- Less sewer capacity for your neighborhood

## What should you do if Columbia Water contacts you?

Columbia Water will send you a letter and detailed report with a description and/or pictures of how the problem with your lateral pipeline was found.

- Use the pictures, if provided, to find the problem.
- Arrange to have the problem looked at and fixed.
- Notify Columbia Water of any repairs made.



Smoke escaping a broken cleanout cap.

## Protecting Your Sewer Lateral

Avoid future problems with your sewer lateral by following these tips:

- Remove prohibited stormwater or groundwater connections.
- Know where your sewer cleanout is.
- Keep the cleanout cap in good shape.
- Install a two-way cleanout if you don't already have one. This allows you to clean the pipeline in both directions if there is a blockage.
- Clear any home blockages up to your property line to avoid future problems.