

Maintenance and Repair of Private Sewer Service Pipes*

* also called "sewer laterals"

STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY

OWASA REPAIRS STRUCTURAL DAMAGE, SETTLING, ETC. IN A PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL; AND MAINTAINS THE PUBLIC SEWER MAINS.

THE **PROPERTY OWNER** CLEARS THE LATERAL OF ROOTS, GREASE, DEBRIS, ETC.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

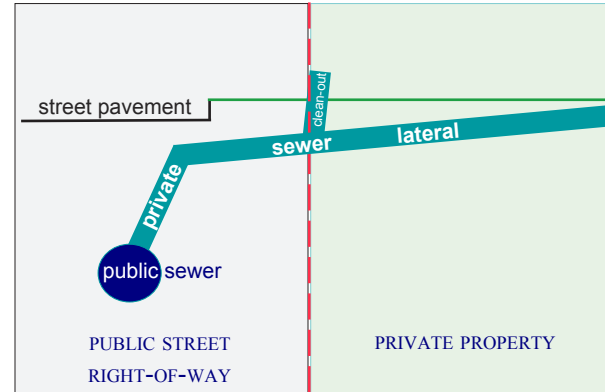
THE **PROPERTY OWNER** IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL CLEANING, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE SEWER LATERAL.


NOTE: THE PROPERTY OWNER IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE LATERAL IN THE EASEMENT AND FOR CLEANING BLOCKAGES IN THE ENTIRE LATERAL **INCLUDING THE PORTION IN THE STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY AND THE EASEMENT.**

EASEMENT (WITHIN PRIVATE PROPERTY)

OWASA MAINTAINS THE **PUBLIC** SEWER MAIN AND MANHOLE.

THE **PROPERTY OWNER** MAINTAINS THE PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL BY KEEPING IT CLEAR OF ROOTS, GREASE, DEBRIS, ETC. AND MAKING STRUCTURAL REPAIRS WHEN NEEDED.



 Orange Water and Sewer Authority

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community

400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510
 (919) 968-4421 webmaster@owasa.org www.owasa.org

Our policy on installation, inspection and structural repair of sewer laterals in public street right-of-way.

A sewer lateral is the private service pipe that carries wastewater from a residence or other building to an OWASA public sewer.

OWASA is responsible for repairing structural failures and settling in the part of a sewer lateral in a public street right-of-way.

There is no charge to individual customers for these repairs by OWASA. (The repair costs are recovered through monthly rates charged to all sewer customers.)

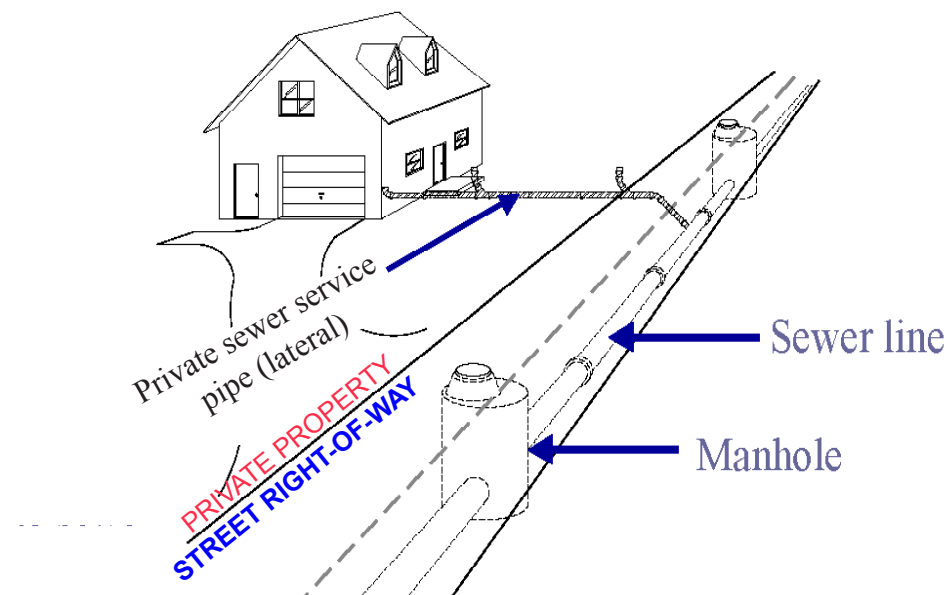
Private property owners are responsible for basic maintenance of laterals including clearing of debris, roots, grease and other blockages anywhere in a lateral.

Private property owners are responsible for maintaining the part of a private sewer lateral in a sewer easement, which is outside of street right-of-way.

Please see on the other side of this brochure the diagram with an example street right-of-way, private property and sewer easement locations.

As indicated on the diagram, easements are a designated area within private property where OWASA has the right to do various kinds of work on our public sewer facilities.

Before we make structural repairs to the



part of a lateral in street right-of-way, it is normally necessary that the property owner or customer:

- Make a request by letter, e-mail or fax that OWASA determine whether we can repair the lateral under our policy. Please send the request to Manager, OWASA Collection and Distribution Systems Department, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro NC 27510 (fax: 968-4464; e-mail: webmaster@owasa.org).
- Have in place or install a “clean-out” pipe for access to the lateral at the boundary of the right-of-way and private land.

The clean-out must have at least the same diameter as the sewer lateral (minimum of

4 inches).

- Have a plumber inspect the lateral with a special video camera to confirm whether a structural repair is needed, and provide the video to us.
- Give us written permission to work on the sewer lateral.
- Agree to reimburse us for our costs for labor, equipment time, materials, etc. if we start work and then determine that a structural repair is not needed.

When we repair or replace public sewers, we will, where necessary, replace the portion of laterals within the street right-of-way.

OWASA inspects the part of new sewer laterals installed by developers or property owners, etc. in public street right-of-way and in sewer easements.

Our policy is intended to help property owners in situations where factors outside of the control of the owner may affect the structural condition of a lateral within street right-of-way.

At the same time, our policy is intended to encourage property owners to properly maintain and use their private plumbing systems to avoid blockages from debris, roots, grease, etc.

IF YOU BELIEVE THERE IS A BLOCKAGE IN YOUR SEWER SERVICE LATERAL:

Please contact us at 537-4292 or webmaster@owasa.org so that we can check whether the blockage is in our public sewer (and remove it if so) before you hire a company to clean the service lateral.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact our Collection and Distribution Department at 537-4292, send an e-mail to webmaster@owasa.org or visit or write to us at 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510.