

ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS AND INFLOWS

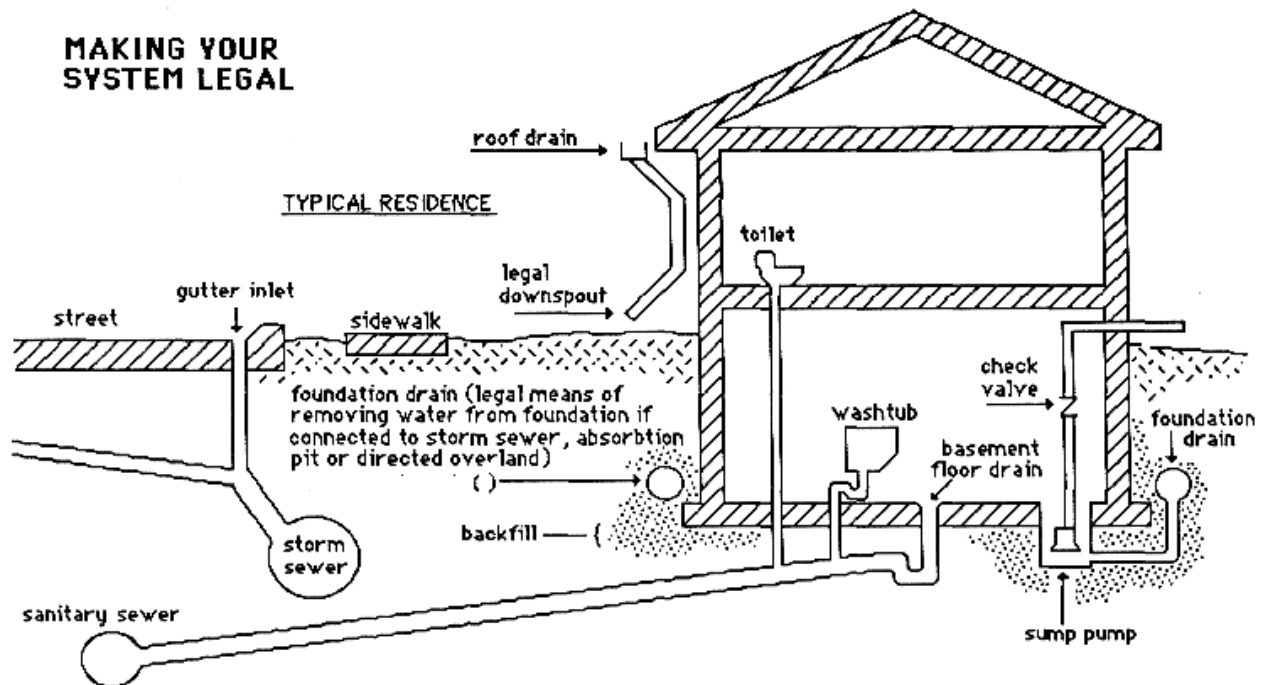
GENERAL INFORMATION - Wastewater belongs in the City's sanitary sewer system. Groundwater and rainwater do not. Inflow is the water entering the system from roof drains, open stairwell drains, strip or yard area drains and sump pumps hooked into the sanitary sewer system. Inflow has an immediate impact on the collection system, and is proportional to the amount of rainfall.

WHAT IS AN ILLEGAL CONNECTION?

There are generally three kinds of illegal connections that have been found in Urbana.

- 1 Sump pumps that discharge to the sanitary sewer system. The connection to the sanitary sewer can occur inside the basement of the building or be a buried connection outside on the property. Sump pumps should discharge to the storm sewer or onto a vegetated area on the property at least 6-ft away from the foundation. This allows sump pump discharges to soak into the ground and replenish soil moisture. The sump pump discharge shall be located so it does not create an ice hazard on City sidewalk and streets or negatively impacts adjacent properties.
- 2 Foundation drains directly discharging to the sanitary sewer. This occurs primarily in the older areas of the City. Foundation drains should be connected to a sump pump and pumped to discharge to either a storm sewer or onto a vegetated area on the property at least 6-ft away from the foundation.
- 3 Roof downspouts connected to the sanitary sewer system with underground piping. Roof downspouts are recommended to discharge onto a vegetated area on the property at least 6-ft away from the foundation. This allows runoff from the roof to soak into the ground and replenish soil moisture.

MAKING YOUR SYSTEM LEGAL



This diagram shows a typical residence with legal connections to the sanitary sewer. You will note that the basement washtub and floor drain and the first floor toilet all drain into the sanitary sewer. The foundation drain, which runs around the lower level of the basement, collects the ground water from around the house and drains it into a sump pit where it is pumped out of the basement and drains overland onto the grass.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS AND INFLOWS?

- Inspect the rain gutters on your house to see if the downspout connects to a sanitary sewer line. Such connections are illegal (violation of the plumbing code)! If the gutter downspouts are connected to the sanitary sewer line, have them disconnected-the large amount of water from the roof can cause a sanitary sewer overflow or back-up. Roof downspouts are recommended to discharge onto a vegetated area on the property at least 6-ft away from the

foundation. This allows runoff from the roof to soak into the ground and replenish soil moisture.

- Look for and check your sanitary sewer cleanout. The cleanout is usually a small pipe, about 4-inches in diameter, outside your house that is used to access the sanitary sewer lateral for cleaning. You will normally find it near the house (where the sewer lateral comes out) and/or near the property line (where the sewer lateral connects to the City sanitary sewer line). Make sure the cap to the cleanout pipe is not missing and has not been damaged (such as by a lawn mower). Replace missing caps so that rainwater cannot get into the sewer line. Kids love to throw rocks, toys and other nasty things down an uncapped cleanout! By keeping the cleanout capped, you can also prevent unpleasant sewer odors and gases from escaping.
- Check to see that outdoor patio, deck or yard drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer. Also, be sure that pool or pond overflow drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer. These connections are not allowed by the plumbing code. You may want to call your plumber to assist you in checking your connection. You can also contact the City for assistance in this matter.
- If you have a basement sump pump to pump out groundwater be sure that it does not connect to the sanitary sewer system. This would be another source of unwanted excess flows that can overload the sewer system.
- If your area is experiencing street or yard flooding, NEVER try to drain the areas by removing the sanitary sewer manhole covers in the street or on your property. This also applies to the caps or covers from your sanitary lateral cleanouts. The huge amount of flow that would enter the sanitary sewer system will definitely cause a problem downstream. Notify the City immediately if you observe or know of someone doing this.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT ABOUT A SUSPECTED ILLEGAL CONNECTION?

With your help, we can keep inflows out of the City's sanitary sewer system reducing sanitary sewer overflows and back-ups. Should you have any questions or would like to obtain additional information about illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system please contact Brad Bennett at 384-2316.

After all this is our City. Our home. Our future. Together we can protect our water.

PLEASE PREVENT OR REPORT ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES YOU SEE BY CALLING 384-2316.