



City of La Salle

La Salle County, Illinois

City Offices – 745 Second Street – La Salle, Illinois 61301-2501

Bus: 815-223-3755

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www.lasalle-il.gov



Notice from the Desk of Jeff Grove, Mayor

Residents of the City of La Salle

I am aware that some residents have had sewer backup during the recent rain events. The City of La Salle has verified that the mainline sanitary sewers in the locations that have had back-ups are clear and free of obstructions, allowing for normal sanitary flow. We believe that some of the sewer backup can be attributed to possible “illegal” connections. I have included an information guide that can help you identify if your home has an “illegal” connection to the sanitary sewer system.

Over the years the City of La Salle has passed ordinances prohibiting these types of connections to the sanitary sewer system. As “illegal” connections have been identified, residents have been required to rectify the issue by disconnecting, capping, and re-routing the flow.

In 1977, the City passed an ordinance (921) requiring all downspouts be disconnected from the sanitary sewer system.

The City will continue enforcing removal of “illegal” connections to the sanitary sewer system. The City Code provides penalties for the failure to comply with a notice to disconnect an illegal connection.

Included here are answers to the questions typically asked.

What is a mainline sanitary sewer?

A mainline sanitary sewer is a pipe located in the City Right-of-Way or easement that is designed solely to transport wastewater from your sanitary service line to the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant. Sanitary sewers are owned, operated and maintained by the City of La Salle.

What is a sanitary service line?

A sanitary service line is a pipe located on your property that connects the sanitary fixtures in your home or place of business to the mainline sanitary sewer. Sanitary service lines are owned and maintained by the homeowner or business owner.

What is a storm sewer?

A storm sewer is a pipe located in the City Right-of-Way that is designed to convey storm related water runoff. Storm sewers are normally much larger than sanitary sewers because they are designed to carry much larger amounts of flow. Storm sewers are owned, operated, and maintained by the City of La Salle.

The City of La Salle is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Jeff Grove Mayor 815-223-3755 x5026	John Duncan Finance Director 815-223-3755 x5029	Brian Brown, PE City Engineer 815-223-7041	Curt Bedei Economic Dev. Director 815-488-4442	Brent Bader Community Dev. & Public Relations Director Deputy City Clerk 815-223-3755 x5028	Kevin Fay Supt. of Public Works 815-223-3755 x5022
Lynda Kasik Parks and Rec Director 815-488-1395	Dennis Hocking Building Inspector 815-228-9218	Jerry Janick Fire Chief 815-223-0834	Jason Stubler Police Chief 815-223-2131	Liz Bishop City Clerk 815-223-3755 x5028	Virginia Kochanowski City Treasurer 815-224-1191
					Jim McPhedran City Attorney Meyers, Flowers, Bruno, McPhedran & Herrmann 815-223-0230



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What is an illegal connection?

An illegal connection is a connection that permits extraneous storm related water (water from sources other than sanitary fixtures) to enter the sanitary sewer system. The extraneous storm related water is water that should be going to the storm sewer or allowed to soak into the ground without entering the sanitary sewer.

What are the different types of illegal connections?

Illegal connections include connections of roof downspouts, sump pumps and footing/foundation drains to the house sanitary sewer lines. In addition, defective house sanitary sewer lines cause extraneous water to enter the sanitary sewers and thus they are also illegal connections.

Where should storm drainage from downspouts, sump pump and/or other drain appurtenance be directed if it cannot be discharged to the sanitary sewer?

Water from sump pumps, area drains and the like shall be diverted to the storm sewers, front or back yards or above ground drainage ditches.

Why is it important for everyone to remove illegal connections?

Removal of illegal connections will significantly reduce the flow of extraneous storm-related water in the sanitary sewer system. This storm water ends up at the wastewater treatment plant and is treated along with sanitary flow. If the City and its residents can reduce the amount of storm water in the treatment plant, the costs of operating the plant can be significantly reduced.

How can surcharged sanitary sewers cause basement flooding?

A surcharged sewer flows at a level greater than the “normal” level. If the home has sanitary fixtures or floor drains at an elevation below the surcharge level, basement flooding can occur. The sanitary sewers have been designed to transfer sanitary waste only. Extraneous storm water flow added to the normal sanitary flow can exceed the capacity of the sanitary sewer resulting in a situation where the sanitary sewer is “surcharged”. Basically, surcharging occurs when the amount of flow trying to get through a pipe exceeds the maximum capacity of the pipe thus building up pressure in the pipe. When pressure builds up it seeks to relieve itself through any means possible, one of which is by backing up private sanitary services and filling basements and crawlspaces. Reducing the extraneous flow will reduce the surcharge and sewer back-ups.

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Do illegal connections really contribute large amounts of extraneous water to the sanitary sewer system?

Yes. For example, a typical eight-inch sanitary sewer can handle domestic sewage from up to 200 homes; however, it takes only five sump pumps operating at full capacity to overload an 8-inch sanitary sewer.

I've never had basement flooding due to surcharge sewer. Why should I remove my illegal connections?

You may not have basement flooding due to surcharged sewers. But if your plumbing pumps or drains storm related water into the sanitary sewer, it may well be the cause of flooding in your neighbor's basement.

What are some possible ways to fix my illegal connection?

- The sump pipe could be run overland to a ditch or swale, which drains to another location. Also, a long flexible tube that can be moved around the yard to avoid discharge in only one portion of the yard could be used.
- The sump pump can be run underground through a 4" or 6" diameter perforated PVC pipe, with holes at the bottom and backfilled with washed gravel. An overflow tube should be placed at the opposite end to allow the water to escape in the event that the volume of the pipe is exceeded. This pipe tube is located at a convenient area of the yard such as a garden.
- Route the sump pump to a City storm via a 4" or 6" pipe and tie into the back of an inlet or the crown of the mainline pipe by way of a core hole. No breaking out of the concrete pipe is allowed. All taps are to be made by a qualified licensed contractor. A permit will be required with proper inspections made by the City Department of Public Works.

Is the requirement to remove illegal connections unique to La Salle?

Many, if not all, local governments have adopted ordinances or codes prohibiting the discharge of extraneous storm-related water into sanitary sewers.

We thank you for your help in eliminating unauthorized connections.

Sincerely,

Jeff Grove, Mayor

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