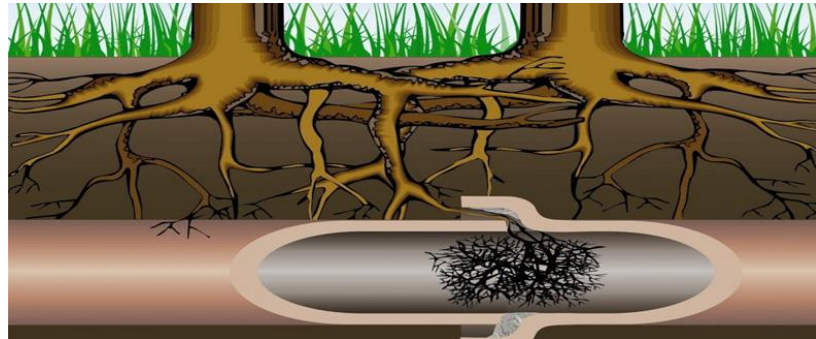
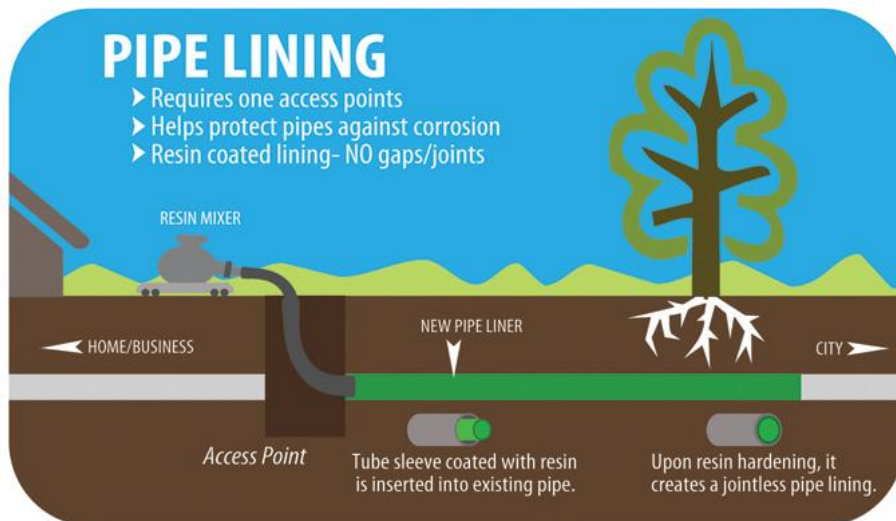


Sewer Service Information

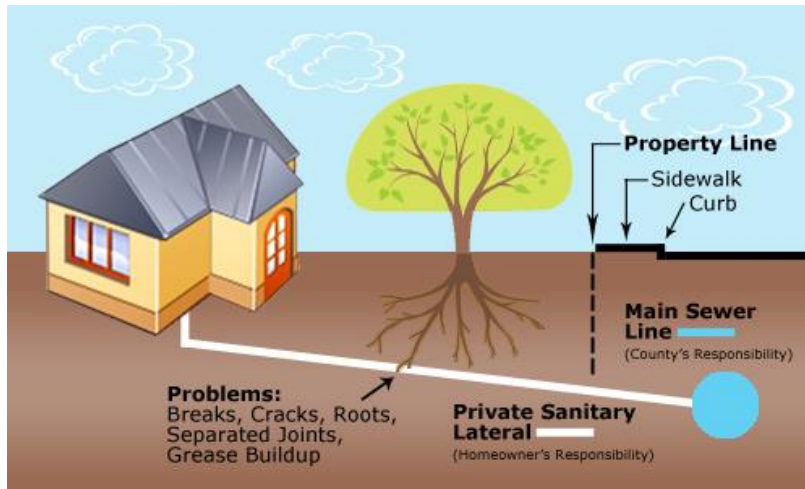
Many homes in Livingston have been having issues with sewer backups. The city is providing this information to help inform citizens about why they may be having issues. Materials such as clay tile and orange burg were used for sewer services before PVC. They did not have joints sealed as well as PVC. This allows tree roots to push through the joints and grow in the sewer service pipe. This can back up solids in the line, eventually plugging the entire service. Plumbers are usually able to work through these clogs with root cutting tools. However, tree roots are fast growing and once they have made it through an opening in a pipe they will continue to clog the pipe. This is why many older service lines are root cut/cleaned several times a year to continue to function. This issues will continue to return unless something is done to rehabilitate the pipe.



Depending on the condition of the service, it may need to be completely replaced or repaired to solve the issues. If the pipe does not have low spots, a plumber may be able to install a liner into the pipe to seal the joints. This can often be a lower cost option for rehabilitation.



Homeowners are responsible for replacing their service to the main if it is needed.



The City has a maintenance schedule for cleaning and root cutting older sewer mains to insure they function properly. Most issues with sewer backups are from the service line. However, if you experience a sewer backup, we recommend contacting the Public Works Department at 406-222-5667 to check the sewer main before you contact a plumber. This service will immediately inform you if the problem is in your service line and you will need to contact a plumber.

A large bunch of roots dislodged from a service line into the sewer main has the ability to cause a backup in the city main and result in a worse sewer backup. This is why it is important for your plumber to notify the City Public Works Department when root cutting occurs. Our crews will check the main to insure it is functioning properly.

Steps to take when you have a sewer backup

1. Call the Public Works Department at 405-222-5667 to have the sewer main inspected or cleaned.
2. Call a plumber to camera your service and identify the issue. Make sure you ask for a copy of the video.
3. If the issue is a root blockage, have the plumber cut through the blockage.
4. Have the plumber camera the cleaned line and get a copy of the video. Depending on the issue, it may be good to have the plumber locate the service line in your yard.
5. Discuss the condition of your service line with the plumber. If it appears the issue will return regularly, look into lining, repairing, or replacing the sewer service.
6. Flush toilets with complete ease of mind!