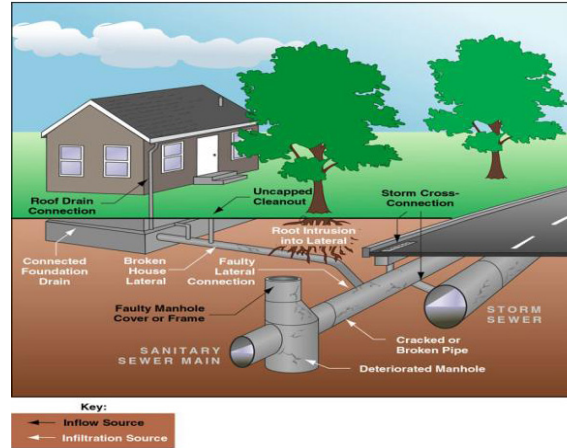

Reduction of Overload

In an effort to reduce the overload on our sanitary sewer system, Radnor Township has instituted a program aimed at eliminating costly, noncompliant connections.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection, reacting to line surcharges caused, in part, by the overload created from illegal connections, could place a moratorium on all new connections and has required Municipalities to develop a plan to reduce the burden on the environment. Overloaded sanitary sewers can cause surcharges into private homes and businesses as well as into the streams and waterways. We want the public to be aware of this problem and the increasing cost to all residents.

Please do your part to reduce this overload.



Sump pumps, foundation, floor and area drains, and downspout connections to the sanitary sewer line are **illegal and result in increased costs!**

Remember

Should an illegal connection be found, a penalty will be assessed, if after proper notification, the connection is not promptly removed.

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We're Making A Great Place Better!

Sanitary Sewer Inflow & Infiltration

Radnor Township



A fact sheet on Water Flows into our
Sanitary Sewer System

What are inflow and infiltration?

Inflow and infiltration are terms used to describe the ways that groundwater and storm water enter the sanitary sewer system.

Inflow

Inflow is water that enters the sanitary sewer system through improper connections, such as downspouts and groundwater sump pumps (sump pumps that pump only laundry water or other sanitary wastes are not a problem).

Infiltration

Infiltration is groundwater that enters the sanitary sewer system through leaks in the pipe. All of this water is called “clear water”, although it may be dirty, to distinguish it from sanitary sewage.

Why is this water a problem?

Clear water belongs in storm sewers or on the surface of the ground, and not in the sanitary sewers. When clear water gets into the sanitary sewers, it must be moved and treated like sanitary waste. Too much clear water often causes sewer backups and overflows when it rains. It also leads to higher processing fees that get passed onto property owners.

What is a sanitary sewer?

A sanitary sewer is a pipe located in the street or an underground easement that is designed solely to transport wastewater from sanitary fixtures inside your house or place of business. Sanitary fixtures include toilets, sinks, bathtubs, showers and lavatories.

What is a storm sewer?

A storm sewer is a pipe designed to carry rainwater away. Storm sewers are normally much larger than sanitary sewers because they are designed to carry much larger amounts of water. Drainage ditches and swales perform the same function in many neighborhoods.

What is an improper sanitary sewer connection?

An improper connection permits water from sources other than sanitary fixtures and floor drains to enter the sanitary sewer system. That water should be going to the storm sewer or allowed to soak into the ground without entering the sanitary sewer.

Some types of improper sanitary sewer connections are: downspouts, groundwater, sump pumps, foundation drains, drains from window wells and outdoor basement stairwells, and drains from driveways.

Where should the water from downspouts, groundwater sump pumps, and/or other clear water sources be directed?

Radnor Township’s Municipal Code requires this water to be diverted to storm sewers or above-ground drainage ditches or your yard.

Why is it important for everyone to remove improper connections?

Removing improper connections will significantly reduce the flow of clear water to the sanitary sewer system. This will reduce the possibility of basement flooding due to overloaded sanitary sewers and lessen the amount of water that has to be treated and will save you money.

How can overloaded sanitary sewers cause basement flooding?

The water in an overloaded sanitary sewer pipe flows at a higher level than normal. If the home has sanitary fixtures or floor drains that are below this higher, overload level, water can flow backward through the sanitary sewer lines into your basement or your neighbor’s basement.

Do improper connections really contribute large amounts of clear water to the sanitary sewer system?

Yes, and here’s why: An eight-inch sanitary sewer can handle domestic wastewater flow from up to 200 homes, but only eight sump pumps, operating at full capacity, or six homes with downspouts connected to the sewers, will overload this same eight-inch line.
