

Plumbers & Sewer Contractors: Your Actions Can Prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows!



**PUBLIC WORKS
CORPORATION YARD
1361 N. Carolan Avenue
Burlingame, CA. 94010
Tel. (650) 558-7670
Fax (650) 696-1598**

Website: www.burlingame.org

What are Sanitary Sewer Overflows or SSOs?

SSOs discharge untreated or partially treated human and industrial waste, debris and disease-causing organisms from the sanitary sewer onto the ground near and into homes and potentially into creeks, rivers, lakes or streams.

What are the impacts of SSOs?

SSOs may result in property damage, environmental damage and/or potential liability to you or your company. Allowing sewage to discharge to a gutter, storm drain or waterway may subject you to penalties and/or out-of-pocket costs to reimburse cities or public agencies for clean-up efforts and regulatory penalties.

How can you prevent SSOs? and avoid associated penalties & fines

When clearing plugged sewer laterals:

- Whenever possible, remove root balls, grease blockages and any other debris; don't push debris from the lateral to the sewer main.
- If you can't prevent a root ball or other debris from entering the sewer main when working in our service area, **please call us** at (650) 558-7670, so we can work with you (free of charge) to remove the root ball from the sewer main to prevent blockages further downstream.
- Use plenty of water to flush lines.
- Don't open manholes. Hazardous sewer gases from manholes are odorless, undetectable and can be deadly. Call us to open manholes for you and please note that discharge into a publicly owned manhole requires a permit.
- For Fats Oil & Grease problems please contact our Source Control Inspector at (650) 342-3727.

When constructing sewer laterals:

- Check your work area and follow CAL/OSHA Guide for the Construction Industry. Gravel, backfill material and test plugs can become lodged in the sewer line and cause blockages. Make sure no debris is left in the sewer line before you backfill.
- Avoid offset joints – offset joints make sewer lines vulnerable to root intrusion & grease accumulation, cause debris hang-ups and make lines harder to clean. Properly bed your joints and don't hammer tap.
- If your work is in the city right-of-way, please obtain an encroachment permit from Public Works Engineering at 501 Primrose Avenue, Tel. (650) 558-7230



Who Do I Call to Avoid an SSO?

**City of Burlingame
Sewer Division**

Help us help you...

If you require our assistance for information on construction standards, to clear root balls or other debris from a lateral or main sewer line to prevent an SSO or to open a manhole in our service area, please call:

(650) 558-7670

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-227-2600



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Bay Area Clean Water Agencies
A Joint Powers Public Agency

