

How can I ensure my property drainage connections are proper?

Area Drains: Area drains located in driveways, basements or lawns that connect to the sanitary sewer system should be redirected to a dry well or other subsurface infiltration system. You may also connect to storm drain systems after obtaining permission from the Department of Public works.

Roof Drains: If your roof drains or down spouts are connected to the sanitary sewer systems, the drains should be redirected on to a landscaped area or to a dry well. Another alternative is to utilize rain barrels to collect roof runoff for use on lawns or gardens.

Sump Pumps: If you have a sump pump that is connected to the sanitary sewer system, it is illegal. It should be redirected to a dry well or other subsurface infiltration system. You may also connect to storm drain systems after obtaining permission from the Department of Public works



Department of Public works

314 Great Rd,
Bedford, MA - 01730

Phone: 781-275-7605

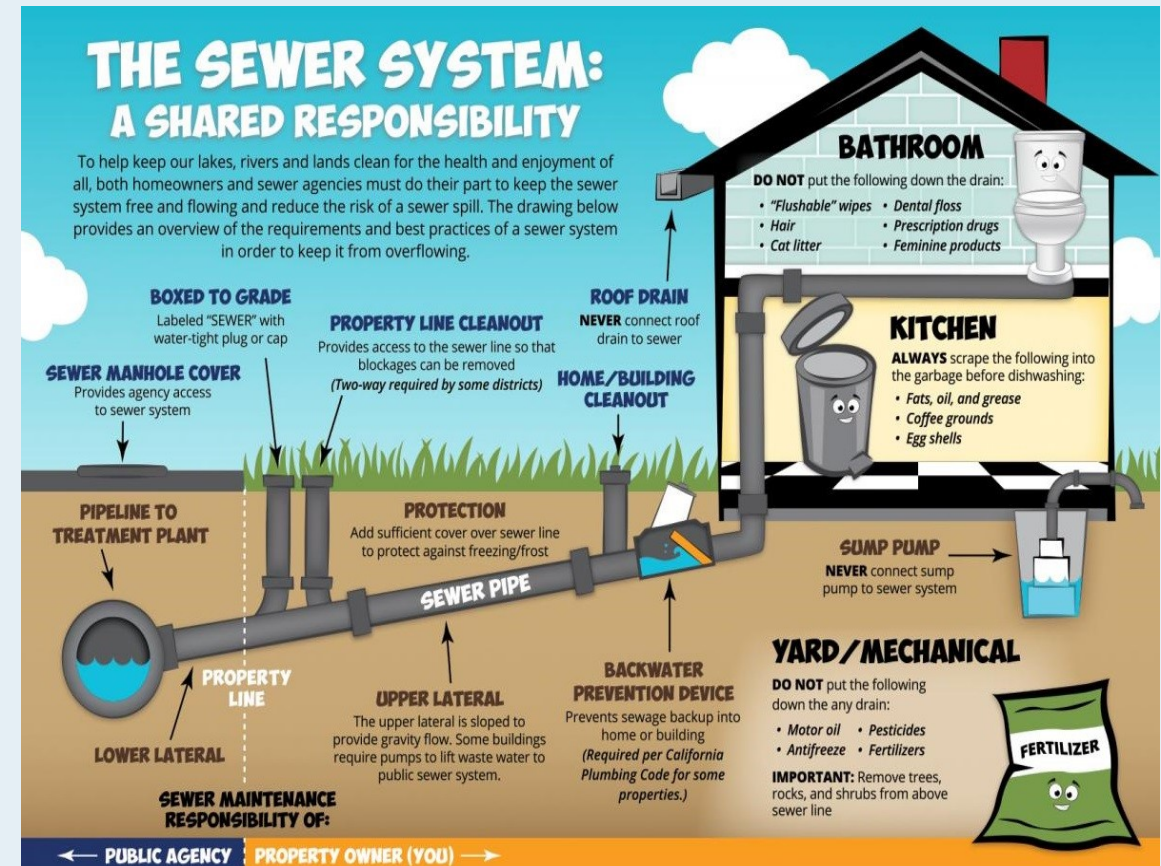
Website: <https://www.bedfordma.gov/department-of-public-works>

TOWN OF BEDFORD, MA



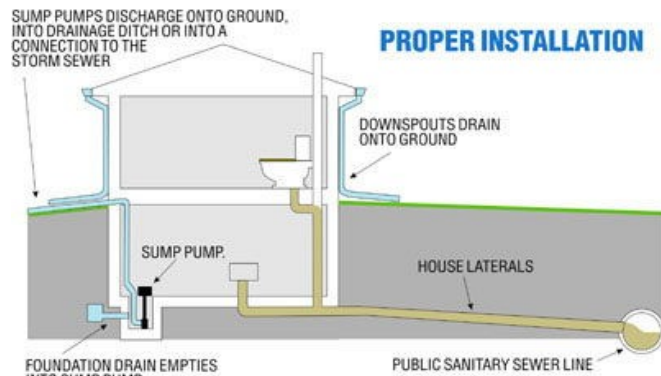
SUMP PUMP CONNECTIONS AND OTHER INFLOWS

Prevent Sanitary Sewer overflows and backups by eliminating storm water inflow and groundwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer system



How is storm water different from waste water?

Sewer/ Waste water is water discharged from bathrooms, sinks, kitchens and other plumbing components. This water is carried through the Town's sewer pipes to be treated. Sanitary sewers are designed to carry



wastewater away from toilets, dishwashers, sinks etc. The pipes are smaller in size than the stormwater pipes.

Stormwater is water from rain or precipitation that drains into the street's drainage system where it flows into streams and creeks. These drain systems help prevent flooding and erosion. Rain gutters from your homes, and sump pumps from basements carry ground water / stormwater. Stormwater is not treated prior to entering waterways. Stormwater pipes are designed to carry rainwater away, and are normally much larger in size than sanitary sewers.

What is Infiltration and Inflow?

Infiltration occurs when water seeps into sewer pipes through cracks or joint failures, and faulty connections.

Inflow is stormwater that enters the sanitary sewers through roof drains, downspouts, sump pumps, area drains and cross-connections.

Why is Infiltration and Inflow a problem? Why should I care?

When stormwater enters the sanitary sewer system, it is transported and treated like waste water and encounters all the costs associated with treatment.



Wet weather magnifies existing inflow and infiltration issues. As a rain event begins, the inflow and infiltration sources start filling the sanitary sewer systems with non-waste water, eventually filling the sewers to capacity. The system could become overloaded, and if sanitary fixtures are below this overload level, water will flow backward through the sanitary sewer pipes, potentially flooding basements or households. It could also cause manholes to pop open releasing wastewater onto the street.

Infiltration and Inflow contributes to the hydraulic overloading of treatment processes, which can affect public health and the community's compliance with state and federal water quality standards.

Infiltration and Inflow can increase collection system, operating costs and unnecessary runtime for sewer pumps and costs for energy, maintenance and repairs.

