



# City of Orting Public Works

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## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Effective Date: June 24, 2014**

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Maintenance responsibility for side sewers within public right of way and easements</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Right-of-Way Management</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To establish guidance for assessing responsibility for maintenance and repair of the side sewer located within the public right of way and easements.</b>

### DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Building Sewer" means that part of the lowest horizontal piping of the building sewer system which receives the discharge from wastewater pipes inside of the building footprint and conveys it to the side sewer at 5' outside of the building footprint. Building sewers are private sewers and are not part of the public system.
- B. "Public Sewer" means a sewage conveyance facility, which is owned, operated and controlled by public authority.
- C. "Sewage" means residential, business, industrial and institutional wastewater,
- D. "Sewer" means a facility for conveying sewage.
- E. "Side Sewer" means the extension from the building sewer to the connector on the public sewer mainline. Side sewers may be public and or private sewers.
- F. "Afterhours" means the phone number to call only in emergency situations, where City Hall is closed afterhours and weekends.

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSING MAINTENANCE REPAIR

ORDER OF STEPS	DESCRIPTION OF STEPS	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Notify the city of the sewer blockage <b>(afterhours) 253-377-0262</b>	Property Owner
2	Ensure the public sewer mainline is no blocked	City Sewer Department
3	Clean the side sewer o the connector on the public sewer mainline	Property Owner
4	Seek guidance and direction from the City Sewer Department if side sewer line does not drain	Property Owner
5	City may choose to TV the mainline to determine where the side sewer is plugged and inform the property owner of TV results. Provide the best possible information regarding the location and depth of the side sewer connector and public mainline sewer	City Sewer Department
6	If location of blockage is unknown or undetermined, owner contract for services to locate blockage. Excavation will be on private property at test tee. Work shall be scheduled so that City personnel can be on site to confirm location of problem	Property Owner
7	If blockage is located on private property, and sewer line needs to be repaired or replaced, owner chooses contractor and obtains permit from the City	Property Owner
8	If blockage or break is located within public right of way or easement, City will make necessary repairs	City Sewer Department

**PROPERTY OWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COST OF REPAIR WHEN:**

- There is a break or blockage in the side sewer within private property or within the building plumbing.
- The blockage is located within the public right of way or easement and is caused by one or more of the following reasons.
  - A. Roots from trees or shrubs located outside public right of way or easement.
  - B. The side sewer or mainline is blocked from sewage contents originating from private property
  - C. The side sewer within the public right of way or easement is blocked by debris originating from a break in the side sewer within private property.
  - D. Investigation revealed that the source of blockage originated from private property including adjacent private properties.

**CITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

Any contractual agreements between property owner and contractor/plumber shall be the responsibility of the property owner, regardless of where the blockage may occur.

**THE CITY WILL PUBLISH THIS POLICY ON ITS WEBSITE AND ON AT LEAST ONE CITY UTILITY BILL MAILING PER YEAR.**

**CLAIM AMOUNT WILL BE NO GREATER THAN THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S SIGNING AUTHORITY; IF CLAIM AMOUNT SHOULD BE AWARDED.**