

# Sanitary backwater valve rebate program

## What is a backwater valve?

- A sanitary backwater valve is a device that can be installed on your sewer mainline (wastewater lateral). Please refer to the diagram below.
- It is designed to prevent sewage from flowing back into your home. Inside the backwater valve is a small Flap which is normally open to allow waste to leave the home.
- If water or sewage starts to flow back towards the home, the pressure closes the Flap.

## Current rebate program

- The program is available to property owners in priority areas in Peel who had experienced sanitary flooding because of a storm event in the past 10 years.
- Residents living in neighborhoods outside the priority areas could also apply for a subsidy if they had reported flooding to Peel Region in the past or had an insurance claim. Subsidies are 60% of the invoiced cost, up to a maximum \$1,500.
- Only basement flooding from the sanitary sewer because of a rainfall event, is eligible for the rebate program. Other types of flooding such as a clogged drain or clogged wastewater lateral are not eligible for the rebate program.

## Administrative process

- Residents are asked to **call Peel Region at 905-791-7800** to confirm eligibility for the backwater valve subsidy before proceeding with an installation.
- Resident must obtain a building permit from their local municipality before installation of the sanitary backwater valve.
- After the installation, resident schedules an inspection with local municipality and upon inspection resident can submit subsidy application to Peel Region.
- Application packages are processed and the subsidy cheque for 60% of the invoiced cost, up to a maximum \$1,500, is mailed to the homeowner within 4-6 weeks from application receipt.

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For more information visit [peelregion.ca](https://www.peelregion.ca)

## Homeowner considerations

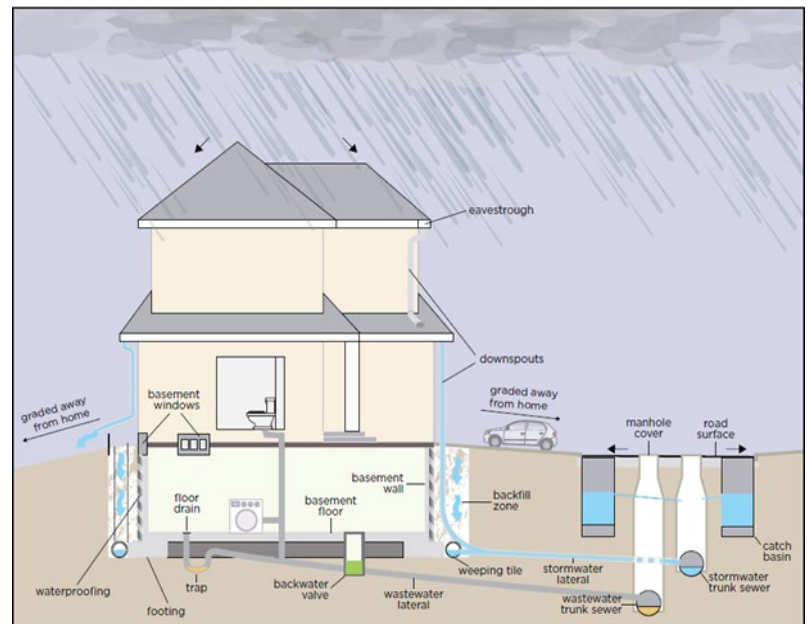
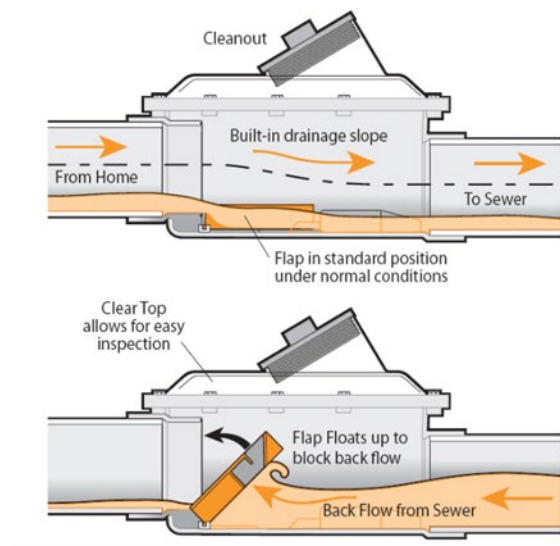
### Cost and lifespan

- The average cost for the installation of a sanitary backwater valve can vary.
- Typically, the installation occurs inside the home (\$2,500-\$3,500)
- Installing a back water valve outdoors is generally more expensive (\$4,000-\$5,000)

### Maintenance

- The valve has a clear plastic top and Cleanout plug to visually inspect and access the inside of the valve.
- Inspect the backwater valve twice a year to remove any debris (particularly under the Flap) that could clog the valve.
- Make sure all moving parts (Flap) have free movement and are in good condition.
- Check the condition of the O-ring (surface between the Flap and pipe when the valve is closed) for cracks or deterioration.
- Ensuring the valve cover is fully sealed to avoid water leaking into the home if the valve closes.

### How does a backwater valve work?



For more information visit [peelregion.ca](https://www.peelregion.ca)



## Sewer Mainline Back-up Prevention

- To prevent your sewer mainline from clogging, homeowners should not flush items in their toilets or sinks such as disposable wipes, diapers, paper towels, fats, oils, and cooking grease.

## General considerations

- Some older homes may have foundation drain/weeping tile connection to the sanitary sewer. Therefore, residents should retain a certified plumber to ensure they invest in the right flood prevention methods for their home.
- In some circumstances a sanitary backwater valve is not enough to prevent basement flooding and a sump pump may also be required.
- Using water, running the shower, washing machine or dishwasher when the backwater valve is **closed** (such as during a major rainfall event) may cause basement flooding as this water will not be able to flow out of the home to the sanitary sewer.
- Only sanitary backwater devices with “normally open” valves are acceptable, as this specific type of valve allows for any sewer gases to exit the home.

## Additional basement flooding prevention information

Peel Region, in collaboration with the City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, and Town of Caledon, prepared a comprehensive guide for residents to increase awareness about flooding. This guide is available at:

[www.peelregion.ca/water/\\_media/basement-flood-prevention-guide.pdf](http://www.peelregion.ca/water/_media/basement-flood-prevention-guide.pdf)

Further information on Peel Region’s sanitary backwater valve rebate program can be found at: [www.peelregion.ca/wastewater/backwater-valve-rebate.asp](http://www.peelregion.ca/wastewater/backwater-valve-rebate.asp)

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