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For more information about MISS DIG or safe excavation practices, please visit:

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# Gross Bore Is that sewer backup the result of a utility line?





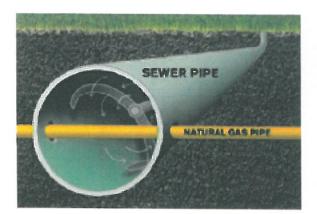
## Be aware when clearing sewer lines. That clog might be a utility line.



A blocked sewer line may be the result of another utility line (gas, electric, or communications) having been accidently bored through the sewer line.

Attempting to clear this type of blockage can result in a serious accident involving loss of life, injuries, and significant property damage.

Please follow the precautionary measures in this brochure to help prevent such accidents.

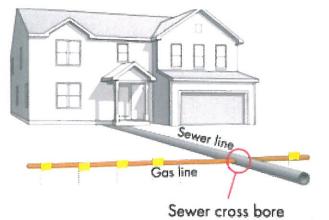


#### Facts:

More and more utilities and their contractors, install underground lines using trenchless technology. Before using such technology, excavators are required to contact MISS DIG and request the marking of underground utility lines in the area of excavation. After existing lines are marked, excavators are required to hand dig and find these facilities before they bore over or under them. Many municipalities do not mark sewer leads, and as a result, excavators may end up boring through these lines without knowing it. This leaves in-service utility lines running through the sewer line itself.

### **Dangerous Situation:**

The presence of a utility line in a sewer line (cross bore) can go undetected for months, even years. Eventually a sewer backup develops and a plumber is called to remove the blockage. It is a common practice for plumbers to use a mechanical rotary device to root out the blockage. This process almost always damages the utility line that was bored through the sewer line. If an electric line is cut, the plumber is at risk for electrocution. If a gas line is damaged, gas can migrate through the sewer line and into home and buildings and could result in a major accident that may involve injuries, deaths, and significant property damage.



### **Safety Precautions:**

Before starting the process of cleaning out a sewer line that is blocked between the house and sewer main, please:

Contact MISS DIG at 811 or www.missdig.org and request an emergency staking request due to sewer blockage in order to have utility lines that might cross the path of the sewer line located and marked.

Use a camera to identify the location of the blockage. If the evidence of recent excavation or utility marks are the same distance from the building as the blockage, there may well be a cross bore causing the blockage.

If you suspect or determine the blockage is caused by a cross bore,

- -Do not attempt to clear the blockage.
- -Get help from the utility owner that may be involved

If you discover the confirmed existence of a cross bore,

- Contact utility owner if not on site already and request assistance with a possible sewer cross bore.
- -If you suspect or smell a gas leak:
  - \* Leave and instruct others to leave area
  - \* Call 911
  - \* Contact the gas company
  - \* Do not operate any power equipment
  - \* Eliminate potential ignition sources
  - \* Do not tamper with gas lines, meters, valves, etc.

