

HOMEOWNER SEWER SERVICE LINES

During the VEHA Infrastructure Project Spring 2026, many homes were found with serious issues regarding their sewer lateral service lines. Original home sewer service lines are 2" clay which has a life expectancy of 50-60 years. All original clay lines are coming to the end or are at the end of their natural life.

Homeowners are responsible for their sewer from the main into your home. Including:

- Offset Pipes (meaning a joint has become disconnected and is now leaking sewage into the ground).
- Sewer lines clogged with grease and other debris.
- Lines with roots intrusions not being cleared.

For most homes, **professional sewer line cleaning is recommended every 18 to 24 months** to prevent buildup, clogs, and costly repairs.

General Maintenance Schedule

- **Every 18–22 months:** Schedule a professional sewer line cleaning (often with hydro jetting or auger) helps remove grease, debris, and roots before they cause blockages
- **Annual inspection:** Even if you don't have clogs, a camera inspection can detect hidden damage, root intrusion, or pipe deterioration.
- **More frequent if high-risk:** Homes with older pipes, multi-person households, vegetation, or high water usage may need cleaning every 12–18 months.

Factors That Increase Cleaning Frequency

- **Older homes** (especially 40+ years) with clay or cast-iron pipes are more prone to root intrusion and wear.
- **Grease, wipes, or heavy detergents** in drains speed up buildup.
- **Past clogs or backups** suggest a chronic issue and may require more frequent service.

Signs You Need Immediate Cleaning

- Slow drains or toilets that don't flush fully
- Gurgling or bubbling sounds in drains
- Sewer odors in drains or yard
- Backups into tubs, showers, or toilets

Cost & Methods

- **Average cost:** \$200–\$600 for a main sewer line cleaning; \$150–\$250 for light-duty snake cleaning.
- **Methods:** Auger (snake) for minor clogs, hydro jetting for deep cleaning, or camera inspection for diagnostics.

