

Sanitary Sewer Jetting program

Sewer System Cleaning Information

The Town of Hagerstown Sewer Department will be conducting sewer line cleaning on the Town owned sanitary sewers throughout the year to provide residents with the best service possible. The following information has been put together to help this process go smoothly as we clean the mains in your street.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the sewer main in my street going to be cleaned?

The Town of Hagerstown plans to clean the entire Town owned gravity sanitary sewer system on an annual basis. The workers will stop at each manhole and flush the lines to keep them cleaned out.

How do you clean sewer lines?

The Town will be utilizing high pressure water jets and a high velocity vacuum to scour the lines and remove the grease and debris from the lines. In special cases, the Town may opt to use a "Root Cutter" to clear tree roots or other stubborn debris and obstructions from the lines.

Are there any problems that can arise during these cleaning activities?

The answer is YES. While we expect a majority of the cleaning to go by uneventfully, there are occasions where we can run into trouble that could impact you. Below is a list of common problems and steps we request you take to minimize the impact.

Water burst in home: Once in a while water pressure may accumulate in the line and briefly flow backwards up a household lateral and overflow a toilet very briefly or come out of a downstairs sink. This is not very common.

Air bursts in homes: Also uncommon, Air pressure can build up in the sewer line and cause toilets to "burp" or air to vent from sinks or washer outlet. This usually results in a temporary odor and noise.

Odor in your home: Probably the most common problem we encounter, the jetting process can create a vacuum environment in the sewer lines and actually empty the traps under your sinks, toilets, tubs, etc. The result will be the temporary loss of odor control in your home. The remedy for this situation is to simply run water in sinks and tubs to restore traps.

How long does cleaning take?

The actual cleaning in front of your home will only last about 30 minutes. In some heavy cleaning areas, the cleaning may last a bit longer.

Will cleaning also clean my lateral?

No, sewer laterals benefit very little from the cleaning that occurs in the main. The cleaning will, however, clear the end of your lateral to enhance flow from your home.

What lines do you clean?

The town will be cleaning "Gravity Sanitary Sewer Lines" owned by the Town of Hagerstown. If you have a grinder pump, you're most likely serviced by a pressure sewer line and will not be cleaned in this manner.

The town is presently setting up a schedule for the jetting and that schedule will be posted when it is completed.