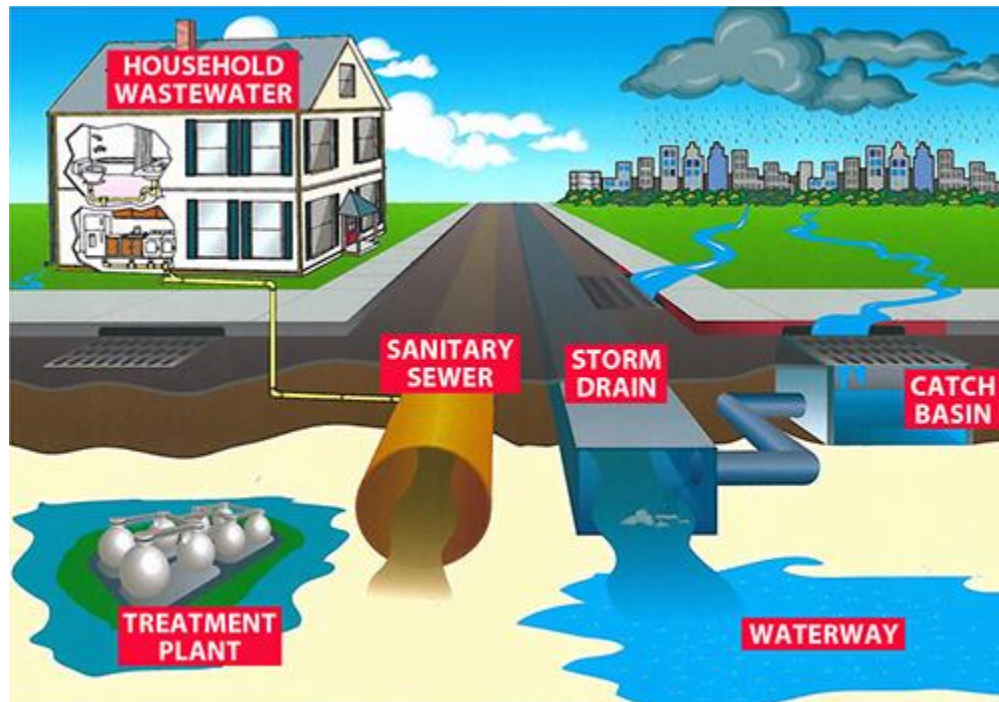


Storm Sewer or Sanitary Sewer: What's the difference?

From a very basic standpoint, **storm sewers** capture and redirect rainwater, snow and other drainage. Sanitary sewers, conversely, transport sewage and water from sinks, showers and other appliances to treatment plants. However, when many people hear the word “sewer,” they immediately think that they’re one in the same.



What causes sewer backups?

The most common type of sewer backup is from clogged pipes. The combination of toilet paper, hair, soap scum and grease are often causes of sewer backups.

Items such as cleaning wipes, diapers, napkins, and many other hygiene items should not go in the toilet. They should be disposed of properly in the trash, and not flushed.

Additionally, kitchen grease should not be poured down your sink, and garbage disposals should not be loaded with large quantities of kitchen waste. However, while proper use can prevent many common sewer pipe backups, other problems aren't as evident.

Tree Roots Can Cause a Sewer Backup

Most sewer pipes lie just beneath the surface of your lawn, and as trees grow, their roots can penetrate your sewer line, clogging it and resisting any attempt by you to remedy the problem. With the use of sewer video inspection, plumbers are able to look directly into your pipes and find the problem.

Even though you may not have a tree near your sewer lines, tree roots can cross property boundaries and may be located far away from where their source. If you have a sewer line that's been infiltrated, the roots will need to be cut away and the pipe repaired or replaced.

Collapsed Pipes Can Cause a Sewer Backup

Many of the homes across the U.S., such as those in Harrison, are over 100 years old. Common sewer pipe materials, in their original installations, are often comprised of clay, PVC and cast iron.

As they age, these pipes are prone to crack or collapse. Trenchless technology can replace sewer pipes made from these materials with a system that causes minimal disturbance in your yard or home.

If you have a backup that's affecting more than one toilet or sink, you could have a problem that requires a plumber. This could be a sign of an issue with your main sewer line and may indicate a problem that can't be solved with the help of a plunger or bottle of drain cleaner.

Common sewer backups can be prevented with regular maintenance and by using your drains properly.