

Taking Care of Your Home.

Beyond the Drain.

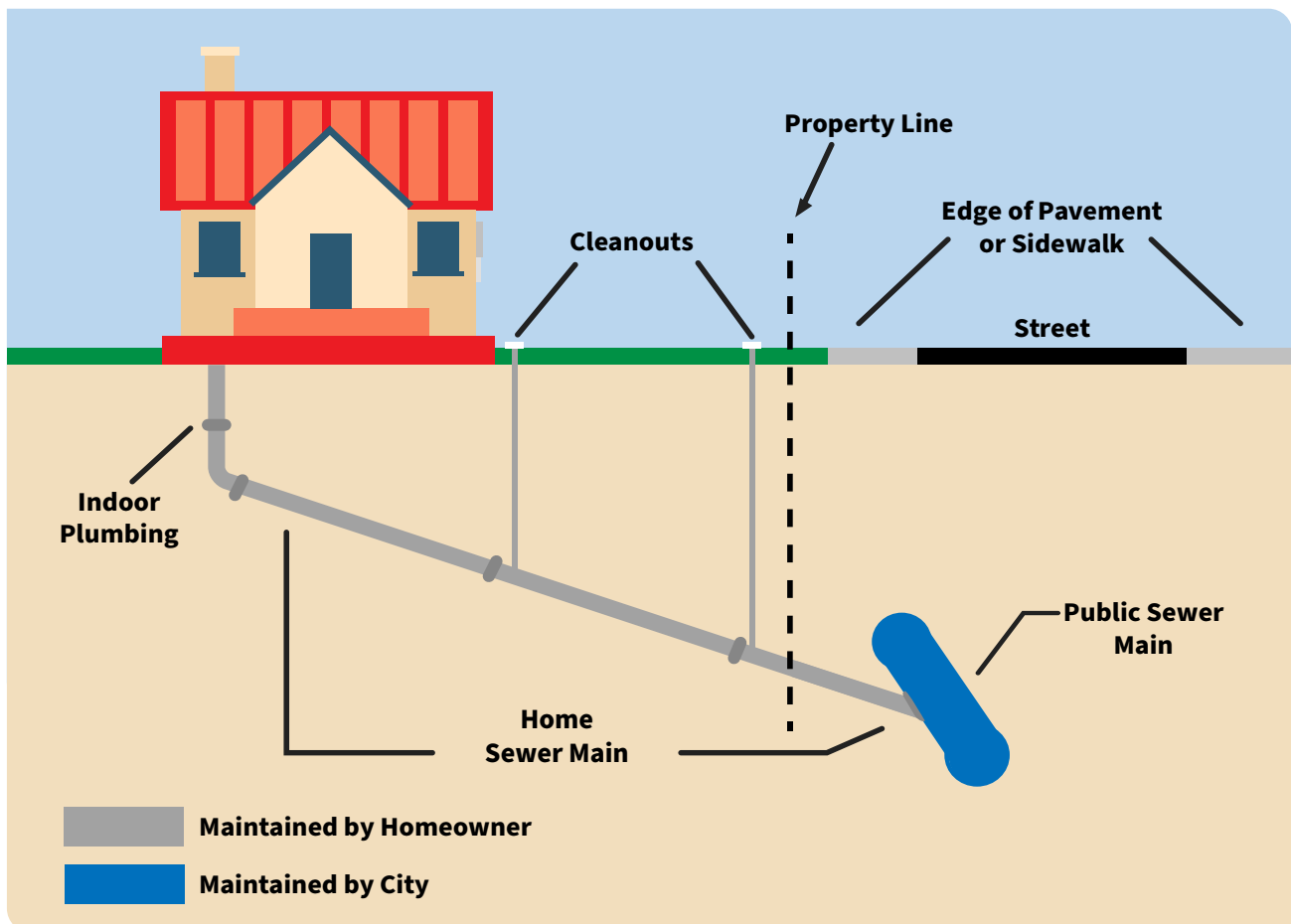


PLUMBING
HEATING
COOLING
ELECTRICAL

As a Homeowner, It's Important to have a Basic Understanding of Drains and Sewers

Sewer and drain systems are essential components of your home's wastewater management system. They are responsible for carrying away the used water and waste from your sinks, toilets, showers, and other plumbing fixtures. It's important to familiarize yourself with the layout of your sewer and drain system and know where it connects to the municipal sewer system.

Property owners are responsible for maintenance and repairs to the sewer line up to where it connects to the public sewer main, usually at the street. Understanding these boundaries can help you manage potential issues effectively.



Homeowners should be aware of their drain and sewer service responsibility boundaries.

Drain cleanouts are a crucial component of a plumbing system and provide access to the sewer pipes, allowing for maintenance and cleaning. Cleanouts typically consists of pipes with removable caps, installed at strategic points along the sewer line. They serve as access points for plumbers to inspect, clear, or clean the pipes. Cleanouts are usually located outside of a building, in the yard, or near the main sewer line.

The primary purposes of a drain line cleanout.

Access for Maintenance: Cleanouts allow plumbers and maintenance workers to access the sewer line easily.

Blockage Removal: When a sewer line becomes clogged with debris, tree roots, or other obstructions, a plumber can use specialized equipment to clear the blockage through the cleanout.

Inspections: During routine inspections or when diagnosing plumbing issues, plumbers can insert a camera into the cleanout to visually assess the condition of the sewer line and identify any problems.

Pressure Testing: Cleanouts also allow for pressure testing of the sewer system to check for leaks or weaknesses in the pipes.



If you're unsure about the location or usage of the cleanouts in your home, we recommend that you consult a professional plumber.

Drains and sewer lines are both components of a plumbing system that are used to remove wastewater from your home and transport it to a treatment facility or a septic system. While they serve a similar purpose, there are some key differences between drains and sewer lines:

DRAINS are plumbing fixtures within your home that collect and remove wastewater from sources, such as sinks, showers, bathtubs, toilets, and appliances like washing machines or dishwashers.

DRAINS are located within your home and are found in bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, and other areas where water is used.

DRAINS are smaller in size compared to sewer lines. They are designed to handle the volume of water and waste generated by a single fixture or source. The drain pipe diameter is smaller, ranging from 1.25 to 4 inches, depending on the application.

FUNCTION



SEWER LINES are larger pipes that connect to multiple drains within your home and transport the combined wastewater (known as sewage) away from the property.

LOCATION



SEWER LINES are located underground outside your home. They are responsible for collecting wastewater from multiple drains.

SIZE



SEWER LINES transport wastewater from multiple drains. They have a larger diameter, ranging from 4 to 24 inches to accommodate the higher flow rate and larger volume of sewage.

Drains are smaller pipes within your home that collect wastewater. Sewer lines are larger pipes that connect multiple drains and transport the combined wastewater away from the property.

Maintaining your sewer and drains is essential for a healthy and functional home. Our plumbers recommend taking these steps to reduce the likelihood of clogs and other plumbing problems in your home.



Avoid flushing non biodegradable items: Only flush toilet paper and human waste down the toilet. Avoid flushing items like wipes, feminine hygiene products, cotton balls, or paper towels.



Dispose of cooking oils and grease properly: Do not pour cooking oils, grease, or fat down the drain or toilet. These can solidify and cause blockages in the sewer lines.



Use drain strainers: Install drain strainers or screens on your drains to catch hair, food particles, and other debris. Clean the strainers regularly to prevent clogging.



Do not pour chemicals in drains: Pouring harsh chemicals, such as paint, solvents, pesticides, or cleaning products down the drain can harm the sewer system and disrupt the natural bacterial balance needed for proper wastewater treatment.



Be cautious with landscaping: When planting trees or shrubs, be mindful of their proximity to your sewer lines. The roots of certain plants can invade and damage sewer lines and pipes over time.



Respond promptly to signs of sewer problems: If you notice slow drainage, foul odors, gurgling sounds, or sewage backups, address the issue promptly. Contact a professional plumber to assess and resolve the problem before it worsens.



Drain Issues and Clogs

By understanding the basics of sewers and drains you can take proactive steps to maintain your plumbing system and minimize the risk of costly plumbing issues. Regular maintenance and prompt attention to any problems will help ensure the smooth operation of your sewer and drains, keeping your home safe and comfortable.

It's important to be aware of signs that indicate potential drain or sewer problems.

Some common indicators include:

- Slow drainage or standing water in sinks, showers, or tubs.
- Gurgling sounds or bubbling in drains or toilets.
- Foul odors emanating from drains or sewage backups.
- Plumbing fixtures experiencing simultaneous drain problems.
- Sewage or wastewater pooling in the yard.

It is always recommended to use a professional drain cleaning company when it comes to clearing your sewer system. Liquid drain cleaners are an acid that can do more harm than good and damage to your pipes and fixtures. They put a temporary band-aid on the situation but in the process, they eat up your pipes and may even start a chemical reaction with other cleaning agents.

TLC highly recommends using enzymes instead of liquid drain cleaners. Enzymes are microorganisms that eat up the bio matter and sludge that naturally build up in your sewer system. A healthy culture of enzymes helps your system drain the way it was designed to.

TLC sells Lenzyme drain cleaner, which is a safe enzyme cleaner recommended by our experts.



Purchase Lenzyme



Hydro Jetting

Hydro jetting is a powerful and effective option used to clean and clear clogged or blocked drains and sewer lines. It is a cleaning technique that uses high-pressure water to remove debris, obstructions, and build-up within pipes. It's commonly used to remove stubborn blockages, grease buildup, tree roots, and other obstructions from pipes. Some benefits to hydro jetting are:

EFFECTIVE CLEARING



Clears tough blockages

NON-INVASIVE



Compared to traditional methods

ECO-FRIENDLY



Relies on water pressure rather than chemicals

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE



Helps to prevent future clogs



[Learn more: watch hydro jet video](#)

It is important to note that hydro jetting should be performed by trained professionals. Consult with a plumbing expert to determine if hydro jetting is the right solution for your specific situation.

THANK YOU

FOR DOWNLOADING OUR GUIDE

This guide is intended to provide you with information to help you understand how drain and sewer systems work in your home, and tips to help maintain them for you and your family. Stay vigilant, address problems promptly, and don't hesitate to seek professional assistance when needed. TLC is here to help if you need expert service. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team. To schedule service, please click the button below, or call our office.

CONTACT US:

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