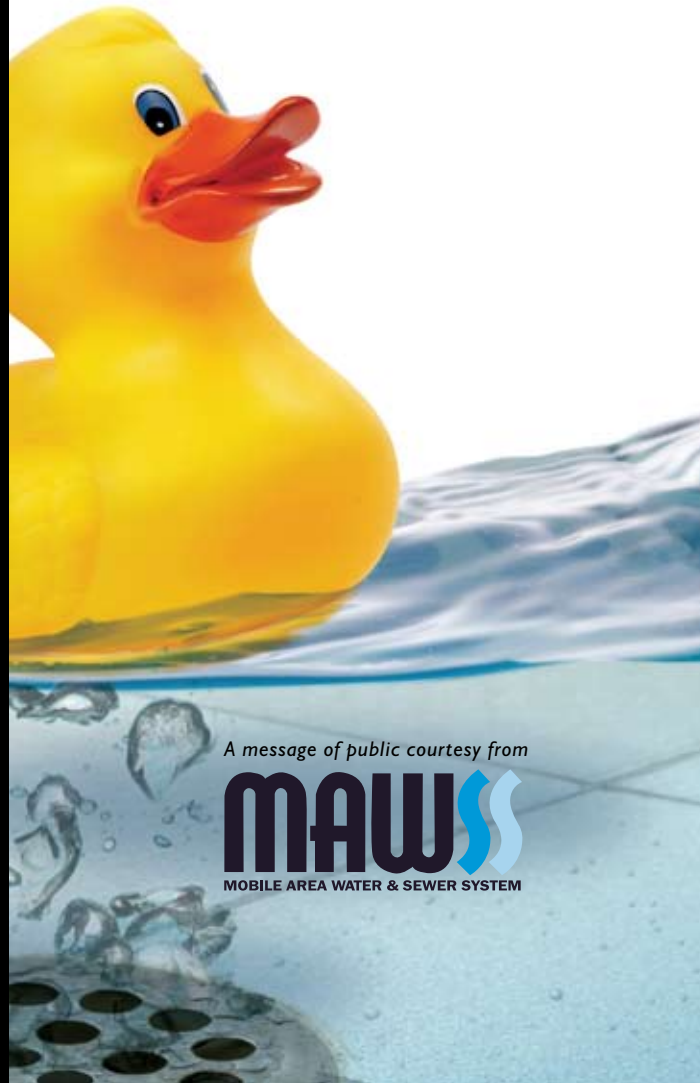


PROTECT
YOUR HOME
& BUSINESS

*prevent sewer backup
contamination*



A message of public courtesy from

MAWSS
MOBILE AREA WATER & SEWER SYSTEM

What is sewer backup?

Sewer backup occurs when a sewer line becomes full and “backs up” in the opposite direction of normal flow. If your home or business is not properly protected, raw sewage can move out of the main sewer line and into your home or business, causing significant damage.

Although sewer backup is rare and MAWSS’ sewer system is constructed to protect customers as best as possible from sewage backup, it is important that you make sure you are protected.

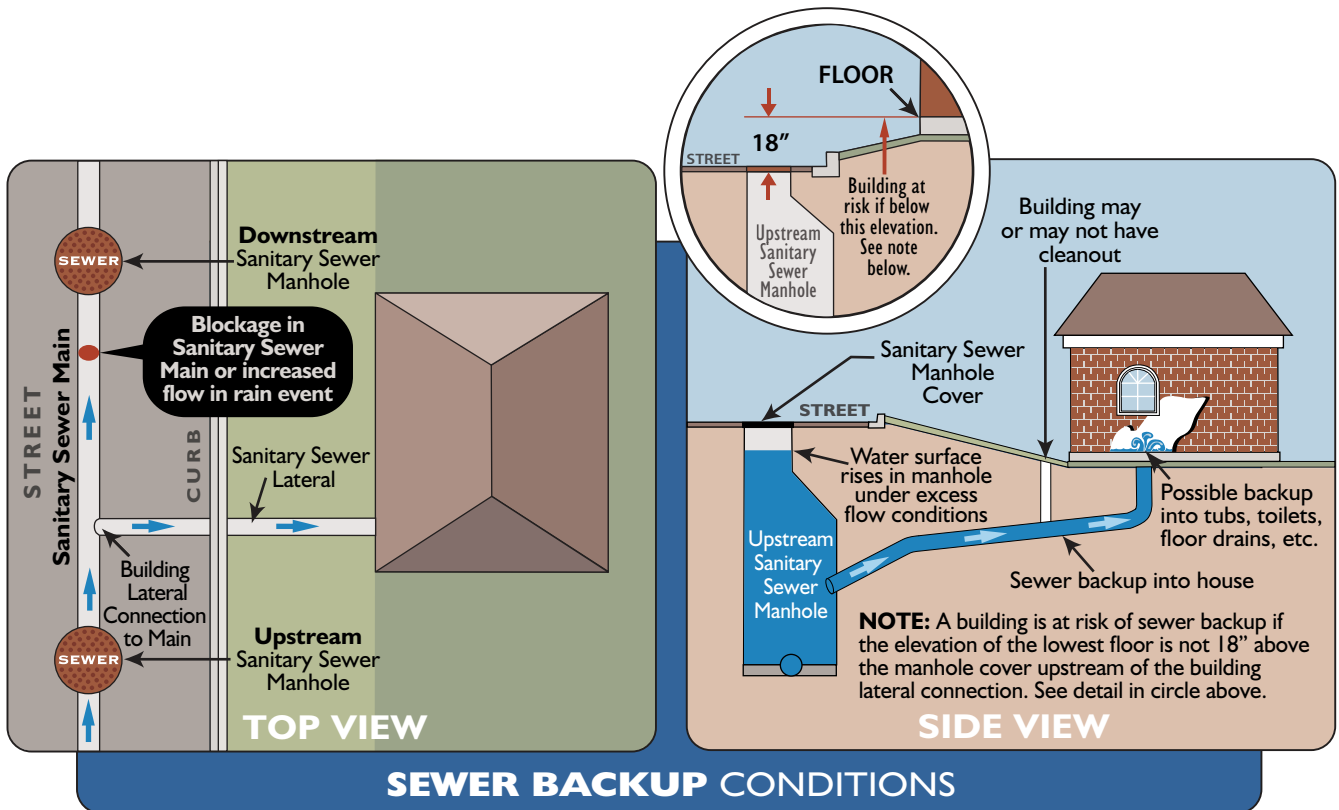
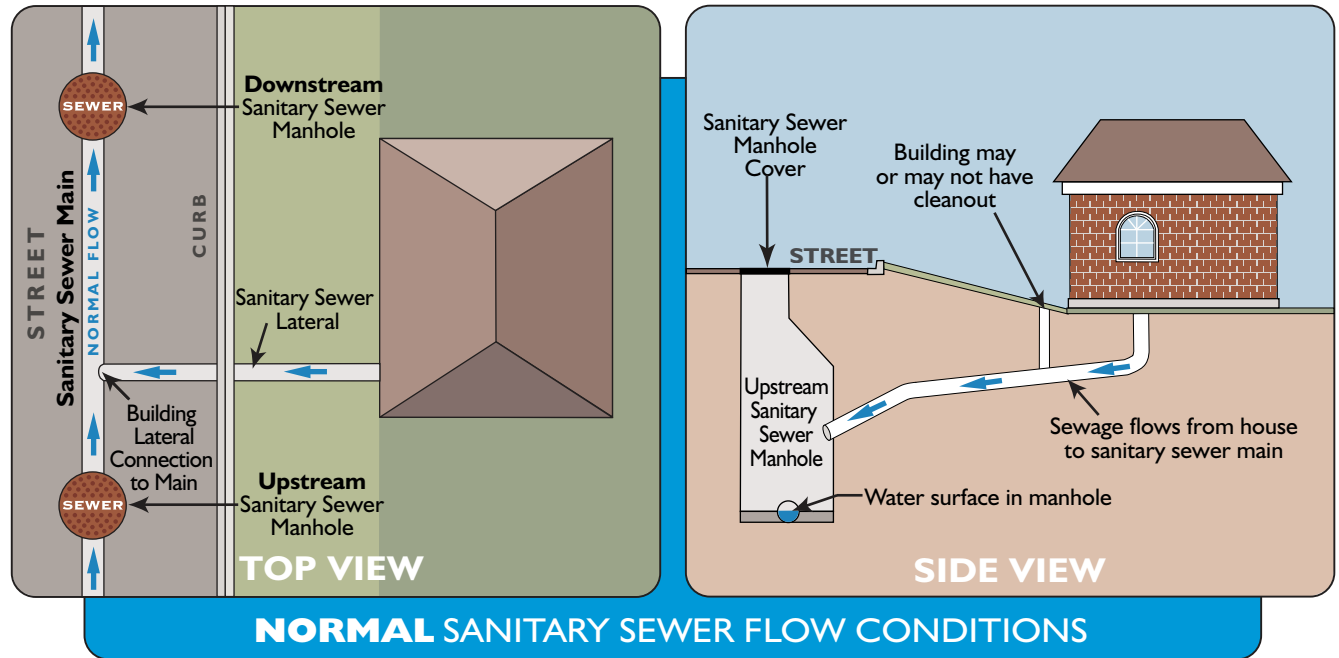
Who is at risk?

If your home or business foundation is located at an elevation lower than the nearest upstream manhole (such as on the downside of the street), you are at an increased risk for sewer backup. In this case, the City of Mobile plumbing code requires you to have a sewage backup protection device in place. Without proper protection, raw sewage could flood your home and cause damage that is difficult to repair. Contact a licensed plumber to evaluate your sewer line and install the proper protection device.

What causes sewer backup?

MAWSS operates a gravity sewer system. Though rare, backup events are sometimes unavoidable due to:

- **Heavy rainfall and flooding**
- **Grease or other “clogging” agents in sewer lines**
- **Unforeseen events that break or block a sewer line (such as construction, geological changes or vandalism)**



What qualifies as a proper “backup prevention” device?

There are three different backup prevention devices that generally stop sewer backup from entering a home or business: a sewer popper, a grinder pump or a check-valve with removable inner parts. Each must be installed by a licensed plumber and properly maintained.

How do I know if my home or business is protected?

Only a licensed plumber can evaluate your sewer line and tell you if you have a properly installed protection device. If you think you may be at risk, call a licensed plumber and be certain you're protected.

Will my homeowner's insurance cover damage from sewer backup?

In most cases, no. Additional coverage may be needed. Check with your insurance provider.

Providing Mobile with superior water and sewer service, MAWSS is committed to protecting public health as well as the health of our environment. Public educational efforts like this brochure and our “It’s Easy to be Ungreasy” Grease Recycling Program are effective ways to prevent sewer problems and keep our environment clean. To learn more, visit our website or call us. Our customer care teams are always available to answer your questions.



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