

Village of Debden

Policy Title Sewer Blockage Policy		Adopted By Council	Policy Number 4/2020	
Jurisdiction Village of Debden	Attachments: In Coordination with: Water and Sewer Bylaw		Effective Date September 8,2020 Amended:	Page 1 of 2
Reviewed By Council				

Purpose:

This policy will clarify who is responsible for sewage blockages and for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the sewer lines and the guidelines to make this decision fairly.

Summary:

Sewer line back-ups and blockages can be caused by a variety of issues including but not limited to: Excessive grease, root infiltration of line, infrequent use (frozen lines), breaks in the lateral sewer line and obstructions. Obstructions may include, but are not limited to: rags/fabric, 'flushable' wipes, household debris, personal hygiene products, and diapers, toys, disinfecting wipes or paper towels. It is the responsibility of the property owner to investigate and arrange for the clearing of blockages as well as the repair to pipe defect on their property. It is the Village's responsibility to repair pipe defect on Village property.

Policy:

The primary responsibility to address a sewer blockage rests with the property owner.

The property Owner is responsible for the cost of maintenance or repair of the line from the building structure right up to and including the tap connecting to the sewer main, including any blockages, breakages or collapses.

The Village of Debden is responsible for a failure at the main line, which is owned by the Village of Debden. If a blockage originates from the residence or business, the Owner will be responsible for the costs associated with clearing the line. Tree roots, or any other impediments, originating on private property, which affect the pipe's integrity on Village-owned property, are the responsibility of the Owners.

Procedure:

When in question of property or responsibility, the Village shall be contacted immediately.

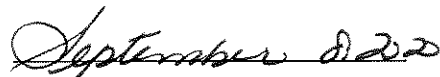
Upon receiving a call with regards to a blockage in sewer service, the following procedure shall be followed:

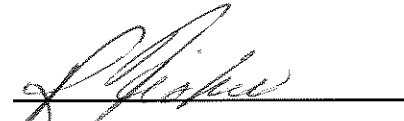
Public works will attempt to determine whether the blockage originates on the property service line or the sewer main line.

1. If it is obvious that the blockage is in the property service line, the Foreman will:

- i. Offer to provide the homeowner with a plumbing snake to attempt to clear the blockage themselves. Current rates apply. Request for use of plumbing snake after hours will result in an afterhours call out fee for the Foreman as well as the rental of the snake.
 - ii. Advise the homeowner to contact a certified plumber to clear the blockage at their own expense and that they will only be eligible for reimbursement from the Village as provided by this Sewer Blockage Policy. Video inspection footage will be required. A plumber must video each affected line to determine where the blockage is located.
 - iii. If the camera inspection shows that the problem originated from the Village main line and Public Works verifies the results of the footage, the property owner shall be advised that it is within their rights to submit the plumber bill to the Village for reimbursement. If the camera inspection shows that the blockage is found to be on the Owner's service line, or originating from the Owner's property, the Owner will be liable for all of the costs incurred.
2. If it is obvious that the blockage is in the Sewer Main Line, the Public Works Foreman will immediately respond to the blockage and clear the main line.


Administrator


Council Meeting Date


Mayor

