

Summary

The Town has developed multiple approaches to address infiltration and inflow. An 8" neighborhood sanitary sewer pipe can handle wastewater from approximately 200 homes; but as few as 6 homes with illegally connected gutter downspouts or 8 homes with illegally connected sump pumps, the sewer system can quickly become overwhelmed. Surface runoff into sewer vents also creates a burden on the system

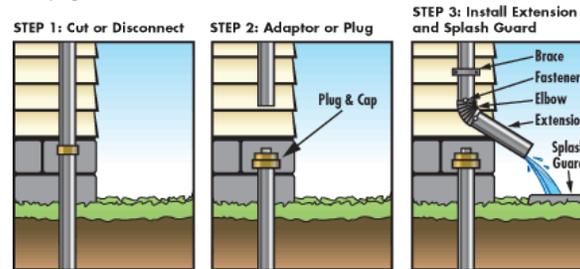
Regulations and laws have been changed to prohibit connection to the sanitary sewer lines, requiring removal of sump pump, foundation drain, and roof drain connections.

Investigation techniques such as dye-testing, television inspection, smoke testing, and flow monitoring help identify sources of infiltration from basement pumping as well as from foundation and roof drains.

Properties with no sump pump have foundation drains connected to the sanitary lateral; this contributes to the overflow problem and needs to be corrected.

For Additional Assistance....

If you think your home or business may have a sump pump or roof drain(s) connected to the Town's sanitary sewer system, or if you would like additional information on how you can help the Town of Cheektowaga in its efforts to reduce SSO's, please contact the Engineering Department at the number listed at the bottom of this page.



Department	Hours	Number
Cheektowaga Sewer Maintenance Dept.	7:30am – 3:00pm	896-7502
Main Pump Station	3:30pm – 7:30am	896-1777
Highway Department	7:30am – 2:00pm	686-3450
Cheektowaga Building & Plumbing Dept.	9:00am – 4:30pm	686-3470
Cheektowaga Engineering Dept.	9:00am – 4:30pm	897-7288
Erie County Sewer District #1	7:30am - 3:30pm	684-1234
Erie County Water Authority		684-0900



Citizen's Guide for Understanding

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS (SSO's)



Town of Cheektowaga
 Department of Engineering
 275 Alexander Avenue
 Cheektowaga, NY 14211
 (716) 897-7288

Town of Cheektowaga
 Engineering Department

Introduction

Our Goal is to operate and maintain an efficient wastewater collection system and to minimize basement flooding in the Town during periods of heavy rain and snow melt.

This brochure describes methods in which homeowners may improve their property to insure a dry basement during adverse weather conditions.

The Town's Sewer Use Ordinance (Article V, Section 7) prohibits the connection of downspouts, sump pump discharges, foundation or surface water runoff to the sanitary sewer system.

The Town of Cheektowaga has separate storm and sanitary sewer systems.

The sanitary sewer carries away all household waste, as well as commercial and industrial wastewater discharge.

The storm sewer carries away all uncontaminated storm waters to local creeks and ditches which ultimately discharge to the Niagara River.

The Town of Cheektowaga conveys all of its wastewater to the Buffalo Sewer Authority for treatment and makes annual payments based on volume (per gallon basis). The Town has many on-going projects to improve and seal the sanitary sewer system from unwanted storm water.

As a homeowner, you can help to save tax dollars by ensuring that sources of storm water are not connected to the sanitary sewer.

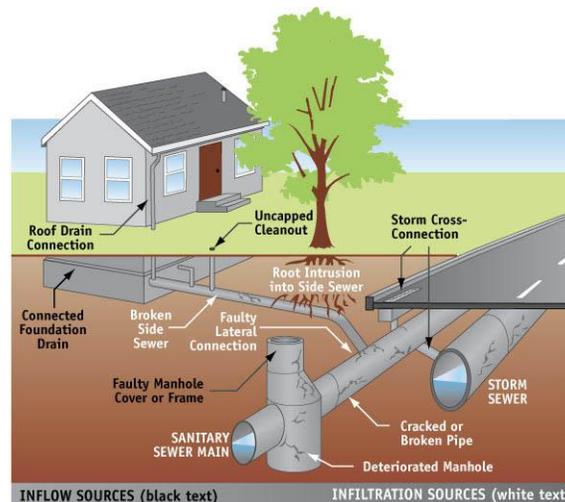
Homeowners are responsible for all plumbing within their home and their service connection to the main sanitary sewer.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

A Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) is a discharge of raw sewage from a sanitary sewer system. The SSO discharge can flow into a basement or out from a sewer manhole. When a system overflows, sewage spills into Town roads, homeowner yards, basements, and into local waterways. SSO's can cause severe health hazards, damage home interiors, and harm the environment. Unintentional discharges from sanitary sewers unfortunately occur in almost every system.

Infiltration & Inflow

Infiltration and Inflow (I & I) is clean storm and/or groundwater that enters the sanitary sewer system through holes, breaks, joint failures, connection failures, illegal connections, and from cross-connections with storm sewers. Most inflow comes from stormwater and most infiltration comes from groundwater. High groundwater levels and storm events also can contribute to excessive sewer flows. The excess flow from I & I will cause sewer systems to overflow.



How Can Citizens Help?

- Make sure the basement sump pump does not connect to your sewage drain pipes, or to a sink or floor drain in your basement. The water from these pumps can overload the sanitary sewer causing an overflow of raw sewage into a street, stream, or someone else's basement.

- Inspect the gutters on your home or business to see if the downspout(s) connect to a sanitary sewer line. If the gutters are connected, have them disconnected. The runoff water from the roof can contribute to an SSO.

- Avoid pouring grease down your sink. When the grease cools in the sewer line it can form clogs and blockages, which then can cause the sanitary sewer to overflow or back up in buildings. Grease can also contribute to restricted flow in your home plumbing and service laterals, resulting in costly repairs.

- Avoid planting trees and shrubs above or near the service lateral that runs from your home to the street. Roots can grow into the pipes and clog sewers, causing them to back up and overflow.

- Do not flush disposable wipes down the toilet or drain, even if the labeling says they are "flushable".

