

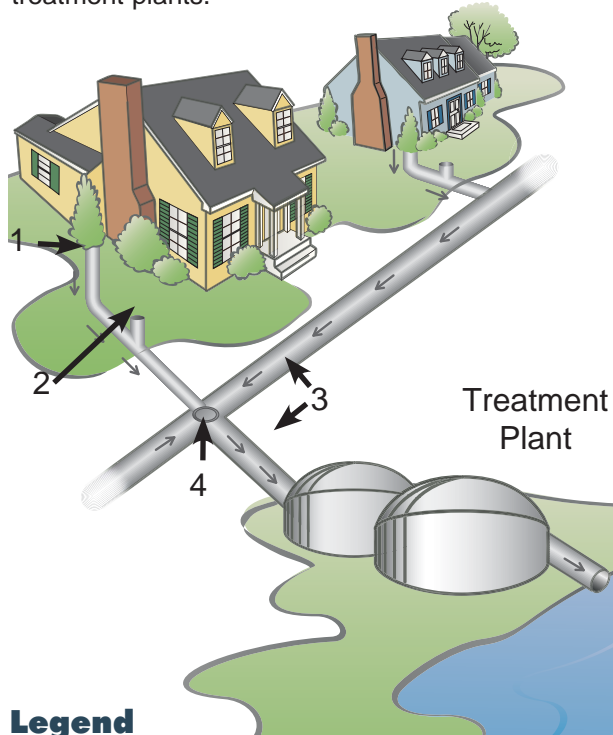
What Is a Lateral? A Cleanout?

A lateral is an underground pipe that is part of your home's plumbing. It conveys wastewater from your home to the sewer system. If you own your home, you also own your lateral from the end of your home's internal plumbing to the connection with KUB's sewer. [See diagram below.]

Many homes also have lateral cleanouts. A cleanout is a vertical pipe from an underground lateral to the surface. It has a removable cap for maintenance access.

Wastewater Flow Diagram

Water used in homes and businesses flows from customer-owned laterals to KUB sewer mains and treatment plants.



Legend

- 1 ➔ Lateral
- 2 ➔ Cleanout
- 3 ➔ Trunk (main sewer line)
- 4 ➔ Manhole

Find Cleanout for Emergency Access

Know where your sewer cleanout is in case you, or your plumber, need quick access to stop messy, costly sewage backups into your home. Remember: Clear blockages up to the sewer main, even if it is under the street. That will help you avoid future problems and the possible inconvenience and expense of another plumber's visit.

KUB recommends a two-way cleanout at the property line for easier access toward your home and the main sewer. If your home doesn't have a cleanout, you may want to add one at your property line.

Protect Your Property and Our Environment With These Tips

- Maintain/repair your sewer lateral to meet KUB regulations and area plumbing codes.
- Remember: You own the lateral from the end of your home's internal plumbing to the connection with KUB's sewer.
- Remove any prohibited stormwater connections.
- Clear any roots or blockages in the lateral all the way to the connection with the sewer main.
- Know where your cleanout is for quick access to clear blockages or stop backups.
- Install a two-way cleanout at your property line, if you don't already have one.
- Keep your cleanout cap on and in good shape to keep out debris and stop blockages.

Understanding Your Sewer Lateral

- Helping protect your home and our environment
- Funding options for mandatory lateral repairs



Properly maintained sewer lateral cleanout caps keep out debris that can lead to blockages.



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Your sewer lateral is your property—from your home’s plumbing to the connection with KUB’s sewer—and maintaining it helps protect your home and our environment.



If you own your home, you also own your sewer lateral: the underground pipe that connects your property to the sewer. You own the lateral from the end of your home’s internal plumbing to the connection with KUB’s sewer. [See diagram.] Under KUB regulations and area plumbing codes, you are responsible for maintaining your lateral, just like other pipes in your home.

We want you to understand why it is important to maintain your lateral to protect your property and our environment. We also know the expense of an unexpected repair can be a hardship.

This brochure includes information about laterals, the lateral program, and possible financial aid to help low-income homeowners make repairs.

Private Lateral Program (PLP)

Maintaining laterals helps protect waterways by keeping out stormwater that can overload sewers and contribute to overflows.

The City of Knoxville, or Knox County, manages the stormwater system to control rainfall runoff. KUB owns and maintains the wastewater system that transports wastewater to treatment plants.

Wastewater regulations require KUB to

- Identify defective private laterals and prohibited connections, like roof downspouts, that direct stormwater to the wastewater system
- Inform property owners of any defects, the process to follow, and potential availability of financial aid
- Ensure owner corrects the problem in 120 days
- Terminate water service to the property if the problem isn’t corrected in 120 days.

PLP Notification and Enforcement

KUB notifies property owners of any defective laterals or prohibited connections discovered.

Initial Contact: First Notice of Noncompliance includes a description of the defect, what to do, and information on possible financial assistance.

30 Days: Notice of Violation goes to all owners who do not complete work within 30 days. Gives owners 14 days to appeal to KUB. For owners working through the repair process, this notice is simply a reminder of the 120-day deadline to avoid water service termination at the property.

90 Days: Urgent Final Notice states water service will be shut off at 120 days if work isn’t finished.

110 Days: A doorhanger advises water service will be shut off in 10 days if lateral not repaired.

119 Days: KUB attempts final contact before shutting off water service.

120 Days: KUB turns off water service.

Financial Assistance Information

KUB funds a grant program to help low-income homeowners make lateral repairs.

For grant applications, please call the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC), 637-9073.

Please Note: Approval is based on income, but not income alone. CAC adjusts for family size, medical expenses, and other qualifying factors.



Defective Laterals Are Bad for The Environment

Broken laterals can allow tree roots or debris into the pipe, which may cause blockages, building backups, or overflows in the environment. And leaking pipes allow wastewater to reach groundwater or area waterways, which adds to water pollution.

Keep Stormwater From Overloading Sewers

Defects and prohibited connections also let stormwater into KUB sewers. That extra water costs more to treat, and it may overload the system, causing overflows. Prohibited connections include roof downspouts, groundwater sump pumps, foundation drains, and drains from window wells, driveways, etc.

Direct stormwater to storm sewers or drainage ditches, or let it soak into the ground.

Remove Prohibited Connections

KUB and City plumbing inspectors won’t approve repairs if the lateral has prohibited connections. Prohibited connections are anything that directs stormwater to the sewer.