

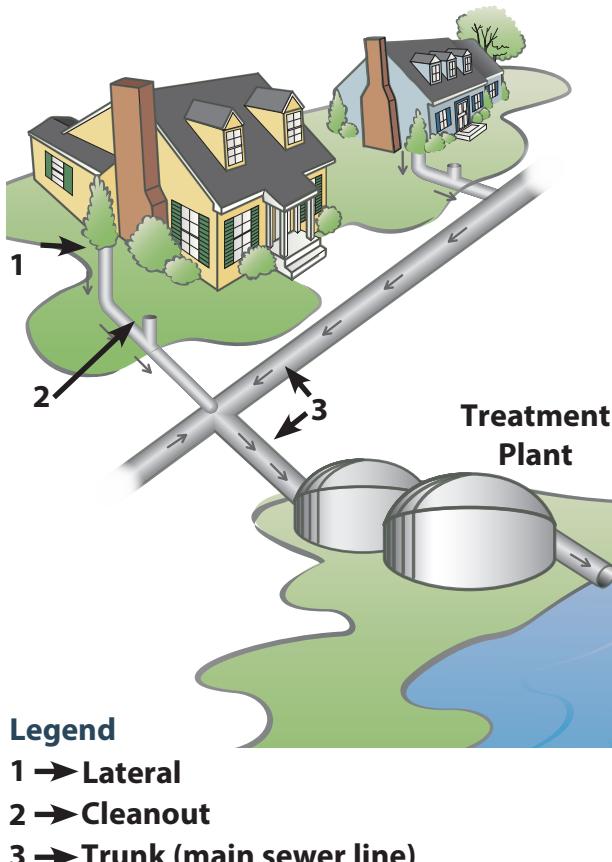
## What Is a Lateral? A Cleanout?

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 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.



## 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 prohibited stormwater connections.
- Clear 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.
- Don't pour fats, oils, or grease (FOG) from cooking down drains. It can cause overflows or blockages in your sewer lateral that can lead to messy (and costly) backups into your home. Pour grease in the trash, and wipe pans and plates with a paper towel to remove grease before washing. For more information, see Can the Grease! on [www.kub.org](http://www.kub.org).



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# Understanding Your Sewer Lateral



Sewer lateral cleanout cap

Properly maintain your sewer lateral and cleanout cap to help

- Keep out debris that can lead to blockages
- Prevent backups in your home
- Protect our environment from overflows.



# 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.

## 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

- Communicate with property owner about defective private laterals/prohibited connections (roof downspouts, etc.) that direct stormwater to the wastewater system
- Inform property owners of any defects and the process to follow
- Ensure owner corrects 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 description of defect and what to do.

**30 Days:** Notice of Violation goes to all owners who do not complete work within 30 days. 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; water service will be shut off at 120 days if the 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.

## Remove Prohibited Connections

KUB and City plumbing inspectors won't approve repairs if the lateral has prohibited connections. *See right for more.*

## Defective Laterals Are Bad for the Environment

Broken laterals can allow tree roots or debris into your lateral 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.



## Remove Prohibited Connections to Keep Stormwater from Overloading Sewers

KUB and City plumbing inspectors won't approve repairs on laterals that have prohibited connections.

Prohibited connections are anything that directs stormwater to the sewer. 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—not KUB's wastewater system—or let it soak into the ground.