

Sewer Inspections

As of December 1, 2006, every house and building in Middletown Borough requires a sewer inspection before it is sold or transferred. The goal of the program is to provide property owners with advice on how to remove rainwater and groundwater from the sanitary sewer system. Sewers are for wastewater, not rainwater. Simple fixes such as redirecting sump pumps or downspouts will save our residents money by reducing treatment costs.

These free inspections will be performed by the Code Enforcement Office of the Borough. You may call 902-3077 for more information or to schedule an inspection. Frequently asked questions pertaining to these sewer inspections:

1. Is there a cost for the inspection?

No, inspections are provided free of charge by the Borough's Code Enforcement Office. The goal is to take pressure off the Wastewater Treatment Plant, thereby saving everybody money.

2. Do I have to be present during inspection? Can't I let the door unlocked for you to enter without me?

Yes—a homeowner or authorized representative must be present during the inspection.

3. I don't have a problem with my sewer line, why do you have to do a video inspection?

An inspection is required to assure that your property has no problem with the sewer lateral. The video will show us if there are broken or leaking pipes that allow groundwater to enter the system, a condition which is not permitted by Borough Ordinance.

4. Do I have to have inspection before settlement?

Yes, a sewer inspection must be done prior to settlement, although fixes to problems can be arranged between seller and buyer.

5. How soon can I get the results of the inspection?

It varies based on the complexity of the results of the inspection. Normally results are available in 3-5 business days.

6. If there is a problem, how long do I have to fix it?

A Corrective Action Plan must be filed and a corresponding Plumbing Permit must be obtained from the Code Enforcement Office within 90 days. It is suggested that a property owner meet with the Code Enforcement Officer as soon as possible since he will be able to determine a reasonable length of time to complete the work detailed in the Corrective Action Plan. Please keep in mind that no work may be undertaken without a permit from the Borough.

7. If there is a problem with my lateral, do you know how much it costs to fix it?

Costs for repair will vary. Depending on the results of the inspection, it may be necessary for you to consult an engineer, architect, or other professional prior to submitting your Corrective Action Plan which will impact the final price. Sewer laterals, the connection from your house to the sewer main in the street, are your responsibility from the house to the curb. Exceptions exist, call for more details.

8. What is looked for during the inspection?

We will be checking to make sure sump pumps, roof downspouts, and foundation drains are not directly connected to the sanitary sewer system. We will check to see if clean outs and shut off valves are in place. Floor drains must be plugged or sealed and below grade fixtures require check valves. In addition, we will note whether your sewer lateral serves only one property or more than one and if the flow to the street is impeded in any fashion. The inspection will look for improper connections, broken pipes, and damaged joints that allow groundwater or rainwater to enter the sanitary sewer system.

9. What happens if I don't have a sewer clean out and therefore the video inspection of the sewer lateral can't be performed?

If you do not have a sewer clean-out you will be required to install one and we will do our best to examine your lateral otherwise.

10. How long will it take to complete the inspection?

Inspection times will vary depending on the length of the lateral and any problems encountered. Normally, inspections take approximately two (2) hours. Please note that sewer inspections are all public information and the inspection reports are available to any person who requests a copy.