

ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS

WHAT IS AN ILLEGAL CONNECTION?

There are generally three kinds of illegal connections that have been found in the sanitary sewer collection system.

1. **Sump Pumps** - Sump pumps **SHOULD NOT** discharge to the sanitary sewer system. The connection to the sanitary sewer can occur inside the basement of the building or be a buried connection outside on the property. Sump pumps should discharge to the storm sewer or onto a vegetated area on the property at least 6-feet away from the foundation. This allows sump pump discharges to soak into the ground and replenish soil moisture. The sump pump discharge shall be located so it does not create an ice hazard on sidewalks and streets or negatively impacts adjacent properties.
2. **Foundation Drains** - Foundation drains **SHOULD NOT** directly discharge to the sanitary sewer. This occurs primarily in the older areas of the community. Foundation drains should be connected to a sump pump and pumped to discharge to either a storm sewer or onto a vegetated area on the property at least 6-feet away from the foundation.
3. **Roof Downspouts** - Roof downspouts **SHOULD NOT** be connected to the sanitary sewer system. Roof downspouts are recommended to discharge onto a vegetated area on the property at least 6-feet away from the foundation. This allows runoff from the roof to soak into the ground and replenish soil moisture.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS AND INFLOWS?

1. Inspect the rain gutters on your house to see if the downspout connects to a sanitary sewer line. Such connections are illegal (violation of the plumbing code)! If the gutter downspouts are connected to the sanitary sewer line, have them disconnected-the large amount of water from the roof can cause a sanitary sewer overflow or back-up. Roof downspouts are recommended to discharge onto a vegetated area on the property at least 6-feet away from the foundation. This allows runoff from the roof to soak into the ground and replenish soil moisture.
2. Look for and check your sanitary sewer cleanout. The cleanout is usually a small pipe, about 4-inches in diameter, outside your house that is used to access the sanitary sewer lateral for cleaning. You will normally find it near the house (where the sewer lateral comes out) and/or near the property line (where the sewer lateral connects to the City sanitary sewer line). Make sure the cap to the cleanout pipe is not missing and has not been damaged (such as by a lawn mower). Replace missing caps so that rainwater cannot get into the sewer line. Kids love to throw rocks, toys and other nasty things down an uncapped cleanout! By keeping the cleanout capped, you can also prevent unpleasant sewer odors and gases from escaping.

3. Check to see that outdoor patio, deck or yard drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer. Also, be sure that pool or pond overflow drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer. These connections are not allowed by the plumbing code. You may want to call your plumber to assist you in checking your connection. You can also contact the City or Village for assistance in this matter.
4. If you have a basement sump pump to pump out groundwater be sure that it does not connect to the sanitary sewer system. This would be another source of unwanted excess flows that can overload the sewer system.
5. If your area is experiencing street or yard flooding, **NEVER** try to drain the areas by removing the sanitary sewer manhole covers in the street or on your property. This also applies to the caps or covers from your sanitary lateral cleanouts. The huge amount of flow that would enter the sanitary sewer system will definitely cause a problem downstream. Notify UCSD, City, or Village immediately if you observe or know of someone doing this.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT ABOUT A SUSPECTED ILLEGAL CONNECTION?

With your help, we can keep inflows out of the UCSD's sanitary sewer system reducing sanitary sewer overflows and back-ups. Should you have any questions or would like to obtain additional information about illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system please contact UCSD, City of Village Public Works Staffs.

After all this is our community. Our home. Our future. Together we can protect our water.

PLEASE PREVENT OR REPORT ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES YOU SEE!