



Water and Sanitary Sewer Lines – Who is Responsible?

Sanitary Sewers

- Homeowners are responsible for their sanitary sewer lateral, which extends from their home, to and including its connection to the City's sanitary sewer system. (See above picture.)
- If a lateral requires repair or replacement, the cost and restoration of any infrastructure damage, such as sidewalks, curbs/gutters and the street is the responsibility of the homeowner. Check with your insurance agent for lateral line coverage options through your home insurance policy. Sewer backup coverage should also be part of this check.
- A sewer lateral should not be presumed in good condition just because water flows down the drain. Many homes in the city still have older sanitary sewer laterals made of materials like clay, which can crack, break and leak easily. As a result, it's important to be proactive and have sewer laterals regularly inspected by a licensed plumber and repaired, as needed by a licensed contractor. A permit from the city is required for replacement or repair of a sewer lateral within the public right-of-way.

Water Services

- Homeowners are responsible for the pipe (water service) that connects their house to the public water system, which runs from the water shut-off valve into the house. The city is responsible for all watermains and water services from the main to the shut-off valve (See above picture.)
- If there is a break or leak in the homeowner's part of the water service, the homeowner is responsible for the repair and should contact a licensed plumber. A permit from the City of Ionia is required for all replacement or repair work on a water service.
- Check with your insurance agent regarding water service line coverage options, as well as coverage for water damage from a service leak or internal plumbing. The city is not responsible for private water service lines or damage caused to property by failed private water lines.