

Illegal Cross Connections

Do You Have an Illegal Sewer Connection?

You may unknowingly be contributing to the surcharging of the sanitary sewer system, causing untreated wastewater to flood your neighbors homes and businesses. Clear water from sump pumps, roof drains, foundation drains, ect., is not allowed to be discharged into the sanitary sewer system, it is designed for sanitary waste only.

The major source of clear water entering the sanitary sewer system is through the plumbing in homes and businesses. Clear water from the above-mentioned sources overloads the system causing untreated wastewater to potentially flood homes and businesses, also polluting surface waters (lakes, rivers, and streams). These types of connections are in violation of City Code and the Uniform State Plumbing Code.

CRMU routinely inspects the sanitary sewer system at various locations through out the town to identify unauthorized and illegal connections. You may wonder how this can be determined and the simple answer is by color, clear water is clear and sanitary wastes are grayish brown. By opening manholes the sewer department by the process of elimination can determine the source of clear water. Once identified 4 major methods are used to determine the exact source: dye testing, television inspection, smoke testing and flow monitoring.

The Sewer Dept. requests that all sources of clear water that enter the sanitary sewer system be disconnected and removed as soon as possible. By everyone aiding in this action it may reduce the need for the expansion of CRMU's Waste Water Treatment Facility and related Pump Stations thus keeping costs down for everyone.

While it may appear relatively simple to perform the disconnection property owners should consult a licensed plumber to ensure the disconnect is done properly. If not done properly dangerous sewer gases and untreated wastewater may enter your home or business.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or need assistance please call CRMU at 712-999-2225.