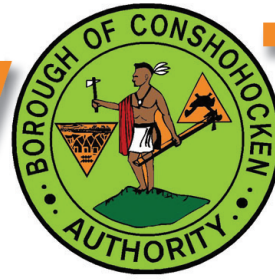


# Authority Times

*News and Information for Customers  
of the Borough of Conshohocken Authority*



**Volume I Issue 2  
Autumn 2014**

## How Your Sewer System Works

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is a sewer lateral?

A sewer lateral is the sewer pipe connecting the property to the main sewer pipe of the Authority. This main sewer pipe is typically located in the street and connects other sewer laterals. The sewage from each property flows to the Authority's sewer main and eventually to the wastewater treatment plant.

#### Who owns the sewer lateral?

The sewer laterals are the responsibility of the property owner and must be maintained by the property owner for the entire distance from the house to the sewer main. The Authority is not responsible for the sewer lateral.

#### What if I have a sewer backup?

Immediately stop using the sink, dishwasher,

shower, toilet and washing machine. Call the Authority at 610-828-0979 and explain the situation to the person answering the telephone. If you are calling after hours, leave a detailed message including your name, address, the problem and a telephone number where you can be reached. Someone will return your telephone call within a short period of time. If you are a tenant, you should contact your landlord and inform him/her of the problem.

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

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Board Member

### **MEETINGS**

**October 16  
November 20  
December 18  
January 22  
February 19  
March 19**

**Meetings are held in  
the Authority Office:  
601 East Elm St.  
Conshohocken**

**Meeting time 6:30 PM**

### **What will the Authority do if I have a sewer backup?**

Authority personnel will check the sewer main to determine if there is a backup. If there is a backup in the Authority's sewer main, Authority personnel will remove the obstruction. If there is no backup in the Authority's sewer main, Authority personnel

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# Wastewater Treatment Plant has Room to Grow

One of the key elements of the Borough of Conshohocken Authority mission is to insure the Authority facilities have capacity necessary to meet the needs of the growing Conshohocken community. Some residents have raised concerns about whether the Waste Water Treatment Plant is large enough to handle continual development in and around town. The plant has capacity to treat an average daily flow of 2.3 million gallons per day of domestic-strength sewage. On average, the plant treats

1.2 million gallons per day, or roughly half its capacity-with a reserve of 1.1 million gallons per day.

In 1988 when the plant underwent a major upgrade, board members, along with engineers, knew development in Conshohocken and its surrounding areas was highly likely. Therefore, the plant was strategically designed to plan for future development. Along with that design, agreements between the Authority and outside entities were created to assure adequate capacity.

The Authority's plant treats all waste

water generated from residential, commercial and industrial entities from the Borough of Conshohocken and its partners. Contributions to the operation expenses along with capital expenses are shared by all three entities. The following is a breakdown of capacity given to each entity and their percentage of responsibility:

- Plymouth Township: 26.2% of the total flow = 602,000 gallons per day
- West Conshohocken: 20.2% of the total flow = 465,000 gallons per day
- Conshohocken: 53.6% of the total flow = 1,233,000 gallons per day

## Does your Property have an Illegal Sewer Connection?

Illegal sewer connections cause higher costs for all system customers because each gallon that goes into the sanitary sewer needs to be treated. Typical illegal connections include basement sump pumps, roof leaders, or floor drains that send water into sewer lines. For example, a homeowner might have a sump pump drain into a basement sink. If instead the water was sent outside into the ground, there would be no problem.

### What can you do?

- Familiarize yourself with your house plumbing system. If you have roof downspouts that are piped underground, a sump pump that has no identifiable discharge point, or foundation drains that don't discharge to the outside you may be contributing to the problem.
- Disconnect unlawful connections to the sewer system.
- Contact the Authority for a free property inspection and to help you find reasonable alternatives.

### (Continued From Front)

will inform you and you should then contact a registered or licensed plumber to remove the obstruction from your sewer lateral or your inside plumbing.

### What if the obstruction is caused by tree roots?

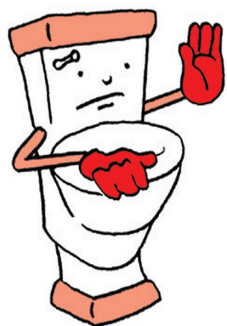
If it is determined that the blockage in the Authority's sewer main was caused by tree roots, Authority personnel will remove tree roots from the sewer main only. The property owner is responsible for the removal of tree roots in the sewer lateral.

### Is there a charge if I call about a backup?

There is no charge for the Authority to check if there is a blockage in the Authority's sewer main. The Authority will not remove any obstructions from your sewer lateral or inside plumbing. This is the property owner's responsibility.

### What can I do to prevent backups?

The Authority strongly recommends to all property owners that have sewage service to their basements to install a check valve into the sewer line. A check valve will significantly reduce the chance of any property damage occurring in the event of a sewer backup.



## To Flush or Not to Flush?

These items should NOT be flushed down the toilet

- |                         |                    |                   |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Baby wipes or diapers | • Disposable wipes | • Paper towels    |
| • Pesticides            | • Paint            | • Pharmaceuticals |
| • Feminine products     | • Fat, grease, oil | • Cat litter      |