

# CONSUMER ALERT!

**SANITARY SEWER LINE BACK-UP  
CAN DAMAGE YOUR HOME**

Your sewer line can back-up into your home, damaging your possessions. The back-up can be caused by the lateral line to your home, or your community's main line. Following are a few simple actions you can take now to reduce or eliminate any damage that might occur.



## 1. Survey your home.

If a back-up were to occur, where would it most likely enter your home? Be sure to check the following locations:

- Below grade toilets, sinks, showers or drains (ie any fixtures located below street level).
- The location of all drains and pipes in your basement.
- If you have an overflow pipe in your basement, check its condition.
- If your toilets are sluggish, have them checked by your plumber to make sure the lines are clear.
- Inspect the washing machine connection – it's often a main entry point for back-up.



## 2. Store items and place furniture as far from toilets, drains, pipes and washing machines as possible.



### 3. Never store your belongings directly on the basement floor.

Whenever possible, elevate all stored items by at least a foot or two.



### 4. Consider installing a backflow preventer.

Building codes require them for new home construction or remodeling if any fixtures are below grade (located below street level), and they are effective in minimizing the damage that can occur. Your local construction office is your best choice for information regarding this device.



### 5. Purchase an Insurance Rider.

Most homeowner's policies exclude coverage but often it can be added to your policy at your request. Contact your insurance provider for the facts regarding this important coverage.

## THE BOTTOM LINE

**Your best defense is a good offense!** Planning ahead can save you money and aggravation, but more importantly, it will protect family valuables... photos, documents and priceless memorabilia that all the insurance in the world can never replace.

**Do yourself a favor... conduct your inspection, call your contractor, your plumber and your insurance agent... and be prepared.**