

What is an improper or unauthorized sewer connection?

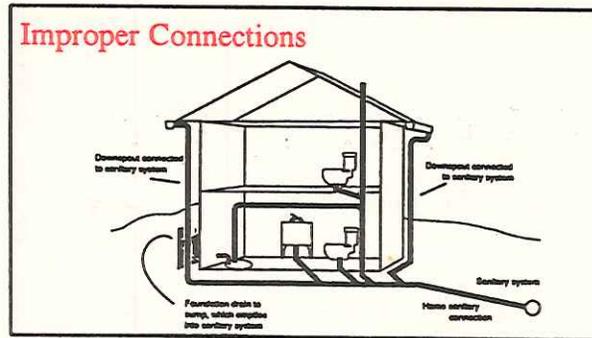
Simply stated, an unauthorized connection is any connection which allows rain or groundwater to enter the sanitary sewer system. The sources of water should be routed to storm sewers, a drainage swale or other natural drainage area. The most frequent improper connections include:

Sump Pumps - Sump pumps are necessary in many types of construction to collect ground water around the foundation and lift water to a higher elevation for drainage purposes. In some cases, drainage pipes from window wells, downspouts or driveways also empty to sump pumps. An unauthorized connection would route this water to the sanitary sewer rather than an existing storm drainage system or natural drainage.

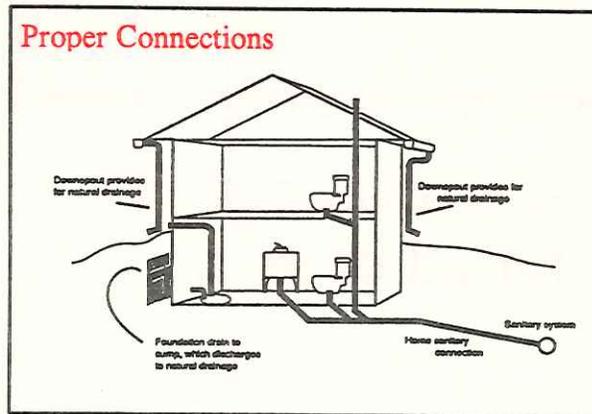
Footer/Foundation Drains - These consist of drainage tiles placed around the footer, foundation or under the slab to collect groundwater. An unauthorized connection would route the collected water to the sanitary sewer system.

Downspouts - Normally, downspouts channel water to a storm sewer or other natural drainage area, and away from your home's foundation. Occasionally, downspouts are improperly connected directly to the sanitary sewer.

For more information or help
please call us at
445-6401



In this example, rainwater is channeled into the sanitary system, greatly overloading the system during periods of rain.



Millions of dollars in otherwise unnecessary upgrades to the sanitary system can be avoided when rainwater is diverted away from the system, as shown above.

How do I spot a potential problem?

Since most people are unaware of an improper connection, they also do not know where to begin to check for a potential problem. If you cannot determine where stormwater discharges around your home, or if you notice any unusual piping configurations, you may want to have someone from the village provide a free check of your system.

Your help
now could
save ALL of
us a lot of
MONEY!

**VILLAGE
OF
ARCHBOLD**

**UNAUTHORIZED SEWER
CONNECTION
AWARENESS PROGRAM**

Our sewer system is at a turning point...

Growth, now and in the future, is placing greater demands on the village's sanitary sewer system. In some areas, facilities must be expanded to accommodate the additional wastewater which will be produced. These planned expansions are being addressed as part of the village's long-term capital improvement program.

There are, however, other demands being placed on the system which are not related to growth. These result from stormwater which is being diverted improperly to sanitary sewers through improper or unauthorized connections, rather than to a natural drainage area. These stormwater discharges often overload the system and -- if not removed -- could result in the need to expand facilities that would normally be adequate to handle all sanitary needs.

Your help is absolutely critical...

Your help is needed to avoid unnecessary improvements that will be required if sources of extraneous flow cannot be removed from the sanitary sewer system.

Many residents may not even know if they have an improper or unauthorized drainage connection to the village's sanitary sewer system. Here's where we need your help. Please review the information in this brochure, then check your home or business to see if you might have an improper connection. If you feel there is a concern, please contact the Archbold Wastewater Division at 445-6401 so a village employee, bearing proper authorization and identification, can meet with you to determine if a potential connection is causing problems.

For more information or assistance,
please call the Village of Archbold at
445-6401

Why storm-water is such a problem...

- * An 8-inch sewer line can service the sanitary needs of as many as 456 homes. Yet, during times of significant rainfall, that same 8-inch sewer line can be overloaded by only 36 homes from which rainwater drainage discharges through improper connections (either direct connections or through sump pump systems).

A critical concern for all of us...

Stormwater inflow and infiltration, particularly during periods of heavy rain, is causing two serious problems:

- * One obvious problem is sewerback-ups, which can occur when a sewer system is required to handle more than its designed flow. These back-ups not only cause serious problems for the affected homeowner, but could also negatively affect our property values on a community-wide basis and severely restrict future residential and commercial development as experienced by other communities.
- * Another costly problem is that our wastewater treatment plant must treat water which wasn't sanitary in nature before it entered the system. The bottom line is that we as a village incur the cost of treatment, not to mention the potential environmental issues involved when flows exceed the capacity of the system, due to excessive amounts of stormwater.

What the village has already done...

Over the past _ years the Village of Archbold has been conducting an on-going program to minimize infiltration of unnecessary sources of water into our sanitary sewer system. Since 1970, village crews have

- * Cleaned all of the sanitary lines.
- * Video taped all suspected areas.
- * Repaired and replaced the system as needed
- * Inspected, replaced and rebuilt all manholes as needed.
- * Established new construction regulations to ensure that new buildings are properly connected to the sewer system so as not to add to the problem.
- * Worked hand in hand with property owners to correct their problems in as equitable manner as possible.

Yet, despite the village's best efforts, infiltration problems continue, which indicates most sewer problems can be attributed to unauthorized or improper connections into the sanitary sewer system... a problem which -- without proper correction -- could ultimately cost all of us millions of dollars in otherwise unnecessary expansion of our sanitary system.

How the village can help...

Should you suspect that you have an improper connection to the sewer system, village crews are available to check the connection for you without cost. Should the connection be improper, the village can assist by suggesting alternatives to correct the problem.