



City of Whittier

13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602-1772
(562) 567-9500 Fax (562) 567-2874

Sewer Lateral Problems – Repair Procedure

Problem: Sewer lateral is holding water, overflowing, or backed up.

Possible Cause:

1. The city's sewer main may be blocked. Contact the city if you believe the problem is in the city's sewer main. Call (562) 567-9540 during business hours or (562) 567-9240 after hours.
2. Sewer lateral is broken or deteriorated.
3. Root penetration due to cracked / damaged sewer lateral.

Solution:

1. Contact a plumbing contractor to determine how best to correct your situation. The city recommends you get three bids.
2. Obtain all applicable permits from Public Works and Building and Safety *before* having the line repaired. Refer to the requirements – attached.
3. The property owner is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the house sewer lateral per Whittier Municipal Code (W.M.C) Chapter 13.32, Sections 13.32.20, 13.32.30, and 13.32.50 – see below.

W.M.C. Section 13.32.020 – House sewers – compliance required.

- A. All house sewers from the main sewer to the property line or easement line constructed under contract with the city shall meet the requirements of specifications adopted and approved by the council, unless otherwise specifically excepted.
- B. All house sewers from the main sewer to the property line or easement line constructed by any person including a municipally-owned public utility shall meet the requirements of specifications adopted and approved by the council, unless otherwise specifically excepted.
- C. All house sewers from the property line to within twenty-four inches of the exterior wall of the building or structure shall meet the requirements of the plumbing regulations of this city.

W.M.C. Section 13.32.030 – House sewers – Existing

The following requirements shall apply to existing house sewers:

- A. When it is found necessary to replace any portion of an existing house sewer between the street curb and lot line, all that portion of the house sewer between these limits shall be replaced to meet the requirements for new house sewers.
- B. When it is found necessary to replace any portion of an existing sewer between the curb and the public sewer, all that portion of the house sewer between these limits shall be replaced to meet the requirements for new house sewers.

W.M.C. Section 13.32.050 – House sewers – Maintenance.

All house sewers and appurtenances thereto, now existing or hereafter constructed, **shall be maintained by the owner of the property served** in a safe and sanitary condition, and all devices or safeguards which are required by this article for the operation thereof shall be maintained in good working order

Acceptable Repair Materials:

1. The Public Works Department only permits the use of sewer rated ABS, PVC, and PVC SDR plastic pipe for open excavation repairs and sewer rated HDPE plastic pipe within the city's public right of way or city easements, no liners permitted.
2. If the work is to be done from the house to the property line, contact Building & Safety at (562) 567-9320 for acceptable material requirements.

Tree roots and sewer pipes:

Roots are opportunistic in nature. Roots will seek out leaking broken sewer pipe and proceed to grow into the pipe looking for nourishment. A well maintained house lateral should be free of leaks. No leaks means no root intrusion.

Notes:

- **Do Not** cut any city tree roots unless authorized to do so by the Parks Department. Serious damage may occur to the tree or an unsafe condition may arise. Also, fines and/or liability charges may be imposed if any unauthorized tree cutting takes place.
- If you are unsure if the tree in question is a city tree or if authorization for cutting city tree roots is needed, please contact the Parks Department at (562) 567-9400 before beginning work.
- Property lines vary depending on street location. If you need to determine your property line, contact Public Works at (562) 567-9500.
- Notify Underground Service Alert (DigAlert) at 811 at least two working days before you plan to dig.

Claims Procedure:

If a property owner believes that the damage to the house sewer lateral or property was caused by the city's negligence, a claim for reimbursement may be filed with the city. Contact the Controller's Department at (562) 567-9800 to request a claim form. Prior to filing a claim, you may choose to complete your sewer repairs as the claims review process is lengthy and can take several weeks.

Permit Requirements – Sewer Lateral Repair

Building and Safety Department Permits Required:

Note: All work performed on the Sewer System on private property requires a contractor with a 'C36 or C42' License.

To repair the lateral from the building to the property line:

1. Obtain plumbing permit - \$59.50 (Sewer Lateral)

Public Works Department Permits Required:

Note: All work performed on your Sewer System in the Public Right-of-Way or city easement requires a contractor with an 'A' license for public works construction or 'C42' License. The licensed contractor must also provide a copy of their CAL/OSHA T1 Annual Trench / Excavation permit. *A homeowner cannot apply for this permit.*

To repair the lateral from the property line to the curb:

1. Obtain excavation permit - \$120.00 (Residential) (Contractor notify Dig Alert).
-\$215.00 (Non-Residential)
If the sidewalk must be cut; then a sidewalk permit will be required (\$230.00).
If the curb / gutter must be cut; then a curb / gutter permit will be required (\$309.00).
2. Sewer Lateral Video Inspection- A video is required for sewer line repairs, per the Ordinance No. 3059 approved December 13, 2016 amendments to Title 13- Public Services, adding Chapter 13.34 Lateral Inspection and Repair requirements. Prior to issuance of your permit, a sewer lateral inspection video has to be provided to the city for inspection. That video, along with a fee of \$280 shall be submitted to the Public Works Counter on a DVD that will play on a standard DVD player (flash drives are not accepted). Public Works will review the video to determine if the sewer lateral is in good working order with no substantial cracks, leaking sags, separated joints, or blockages that allow sewage into the ground. If it is determined that the sewer lateral requires repairs it will be the responsibility of the property owner to make the necessary repairs to bring the sewer lateral in to compliance.

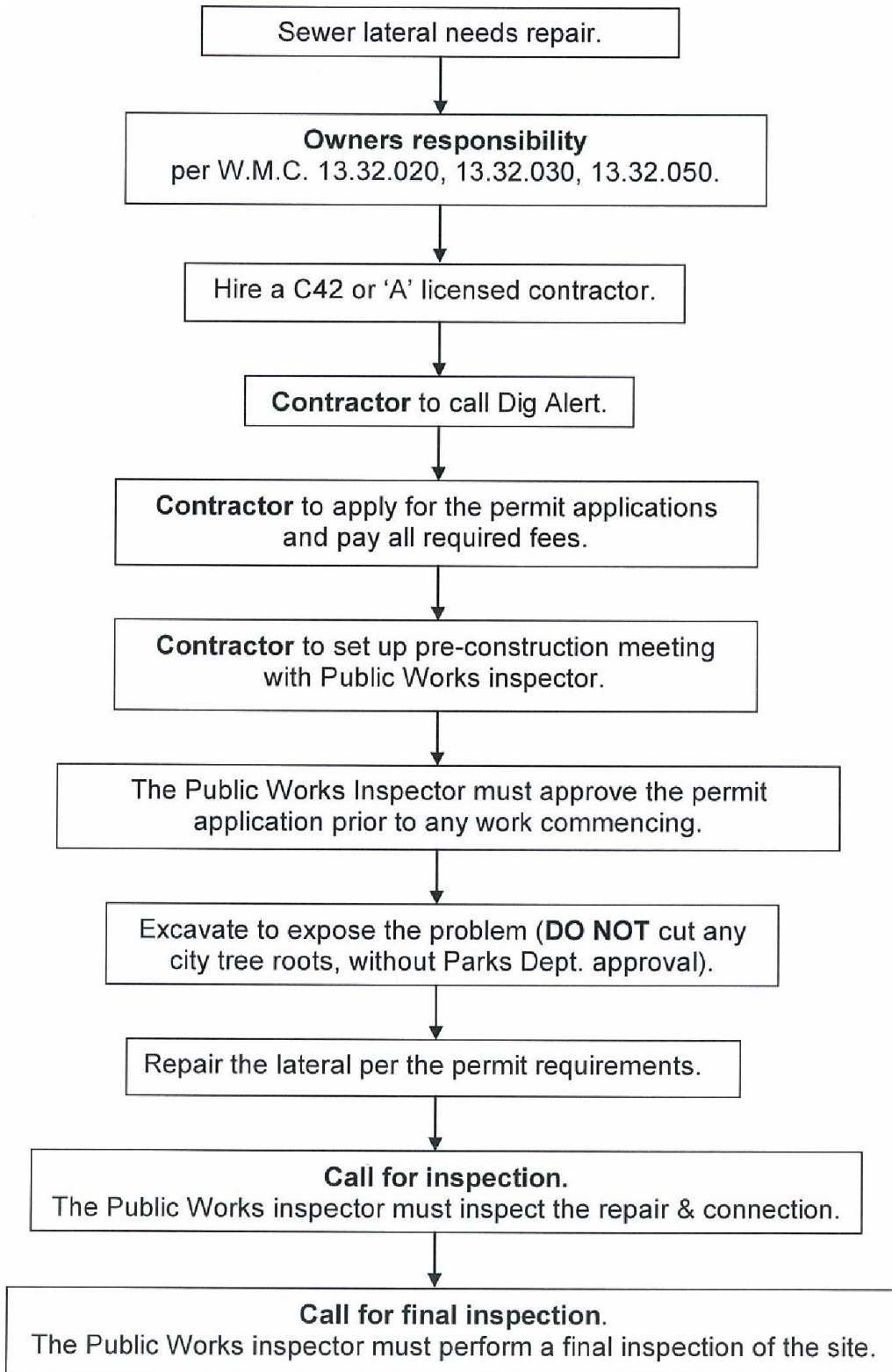
To repair the lateral from the curb to the main in the street or alley:

1. Obtain street-cut permit - \$326.00 (notify Dig Alert)
2. Obtain Lane Closure permit - \$366.00. Submit a Traffic Control Plan per California MUTCD (as required). (or a Road Closure Permit, as required)
3. Submit Certificates of Insurance from the Contractor. The City of Whittier must be named additional insured. Also, the endorsement page must be included (which is a separate page from the certificate), with the minimum general liability and automobile liability in the amount of \$2,000,000.

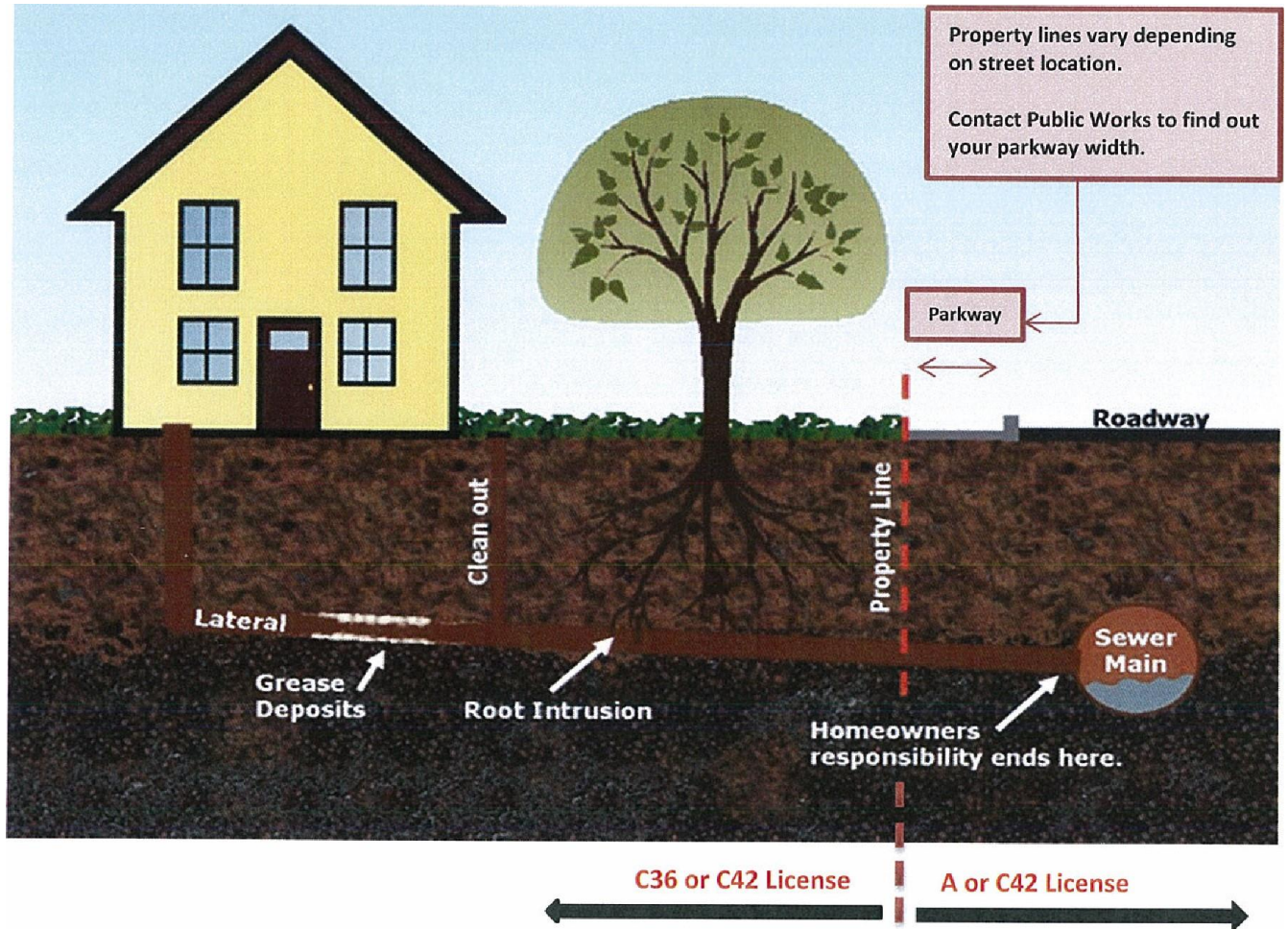
Note:

- Additional permits may be required depending on field conditions.
- Fees above are based on the current adopted fee schedule.
(Resolution No. 8865)

Sewer Lateral Procedure For Working in the Public Right of Way or City Easement



Example of a Residential Sewer Lateral



Important Phone Numbers:

- Public Works (562) 567-9500
- 24-hr Sewer Emergency (562) 567-9240
- Dig Alert 811