

City of Lower Burrell

Instructions for Evaluating Private Sanitary Sewer Line (Lateral)

Upon Receipt of Letter from the City of Lower Burrell, you will need to perform the following:

- 1) At the City of Lower Burrell Tax Office, obtain the appropriate 3 forms for the evaluation of the complete private sanitary lateral: Dye Test, Camera Test, and a Plumber's Repair Report.
- 2) Contact a local plumber capable of performing a "camera inspection" of your sanitary line under your basement floor and from your home all the way out to the main sewer line. The Plumber will also need to perform a dye test on any outside downspouts, driveway drains, stair well drains, yard drains, or sump pump (if applicable) as to verify if they are connected to the sanitary system. (Note: If any of these are found to be connected, it is considered a violation to the Ordinance and needs corrected in a timely manner.)
- 3) Get the cost involved from local plumbers to perform the dye and camera tests. Be sure to specify that evaluation forms will need to be completed, along with 2 copies of the video that contains the date, time, and footages on the screen of the camera test. (Feel free to call more than 1 plumber so as you get a competitive price).
- 4) After deciding on the Plumber, schedule the dye and camera tests. Call the Public Works Foreman, within 30 days of receipt of the letter, to inform the City what the scheduled time table is to get the tests performed at 724-889-2007. The Foreman will need to be contacted and informed of each step of the evaluation/correction process. The Public Works Department is here to work with each resident, the Department just needs to be informed of the progression of this process and the tentative time line. The City's main concern is that progress is being made on correcting the water infiltration issue of the private lateral.

Dye Test: Any exterior downspouts, driveway drains, stairwell drains, and yard drains are to be dye tested to verify if they are NOT connected to the sanitary

system. Any sump pump collecting water (if applicable), such as an interior French Drain, is to be verified that it is NOT connected to the sanitary system either.

Any exterior/outside structure (and sump pump where applicable) that is directly connected to the sanitary system is considered a “Failure” and will need to be removed permanently. At this point, the “Plumber’s Repair Report” is to be completed specifying the failure, and the approximate cost to complete the repair. The Plumber is to sign and date the form and submit it to the homeowner so as they may have the option of getting another quote on the repair needed if they deem so necessary. Once the repair is completed, the Plumber’s Repair Report is to be signed by the party completing the repair and is to be submitted to the Tax Office.

Camera Evaluation: The sewer lines under the basement floor, as well as the lateral line from the home all the way out to the City’s Main Sanitary Line, is to be reviewed and recorded by a sewer camera. The proper date, time, and footage is to be recorded during this process and saved to a disc or flash drive. A copy is to be given to the homeowner **and also** submitted with the appropriate form to the Tax Office. The camera evaluations may also be emailed to the City of Lower Burrell (sewerinspections@cityoflowerburrell.com) if the camera recording equipment is able to do so. The footages, time and date are to identically match the footages, time and date on the camera evaluation form.

If there is water infiltrating the joints, or signs of water infiltrating (by calcium or iron deposits) a sewer pipe joint, root intrusion, cracks, breaks, or separations of the pipe that are big enough to see that the seal is no longer working, it will be considered a “failure” of the camera test. The connection of a French Drain pipe, field drain, or any “unknown pipe” is also considered a “failure”.

At this point, the Plumber is to complete the “Plumber’s Repair Report” stating the location and type of repair needed, along with an estimated cost to complete the repair. The signed report will provide the homeowner with the information needed in order to make an informed decision on how to proceed with the repair. Having a copy of the camera evaluation in a disc or flash drive form will enable

the homeowner to possibly obtain other quotes to perform the same repair without having to pay for another camera evaluation.

Once the repair is made, the repair will need to be shown via a “final” camera recording, or visual inspection by City personnel if an open ditch is to be dug in order to make the repair. The Public Works Foreman is to be contacted 24 hours in advance for all inspections needed.

5) The Dye Test, Camera Inspection, and Plumber’s Repair Report, along with copies of the sewer camera evaluation video are to be completed and submitted to the Tax Office.

Failure to proceed with any of these steps in a timely manner will result in a citation, or possibly a lien on the home, for violation of a City Ordinance.