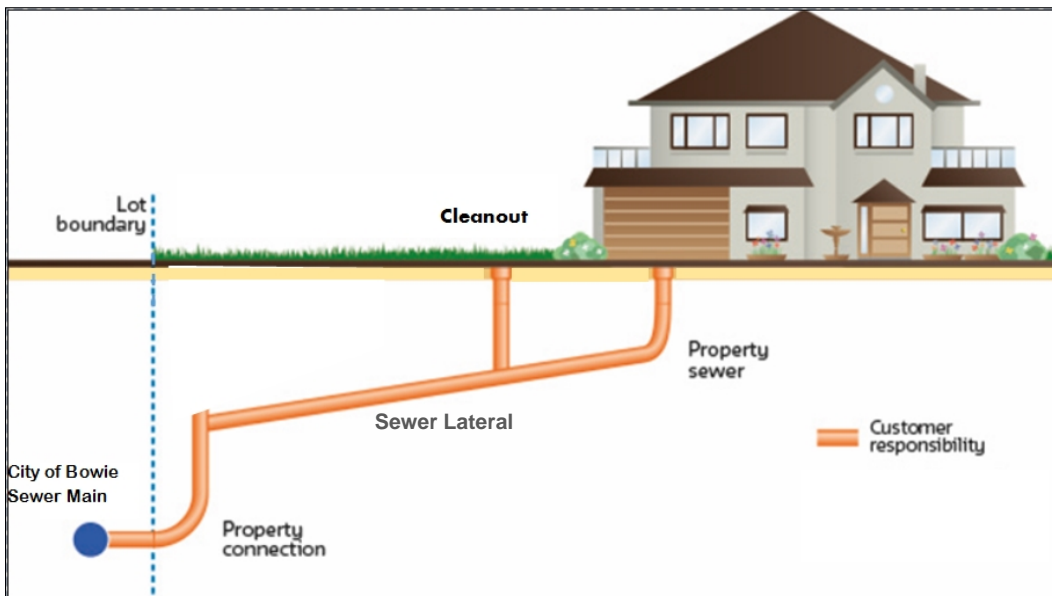


Sewer Blockages

As a homeowner you should know that despite the City's vigorous preventive maintenance procedures, sewer blockages and backups do occur. If you experience a sewer back up or signs of an impending blockage such as slow drain flow, slow flushing toilets, or gurgling noises from shower or tub drains, you should immediately contact a plumber. A plumber should be able to tell you the location of the blockage.

Who's responsible to clear or repair blocked or damaged drains? Since 1990, the City's policy on the maintenance repairs of sewers has been as follows:

For sewers in the back yard: The homeowner is responsible for maintaining the sewer house connection (the sewer lateral) from the house to the sewer main. The homeowner's responsibility includes the lateral under the utility easement strip in the rear of the yard (even when that easement extends beyond the homeowner's property line) and the connection where the lateral meets the sewer main. ***When repairs to back yard laterals require the connection to the sewer main to be replaced, the City of Bowie Utilities Division must be contacted to inspect that work.***



For sewers in the front yard: The homeowner is responsible for maintaining the sewer house connection (the sewer lateral) from the house to the back edge of the curb. The homeowner's responsibility includes the section of the lateral from the curb into the yard proper. The City is responsible for maintaining the lateral from the back edge of the curb to the sewer main under.

