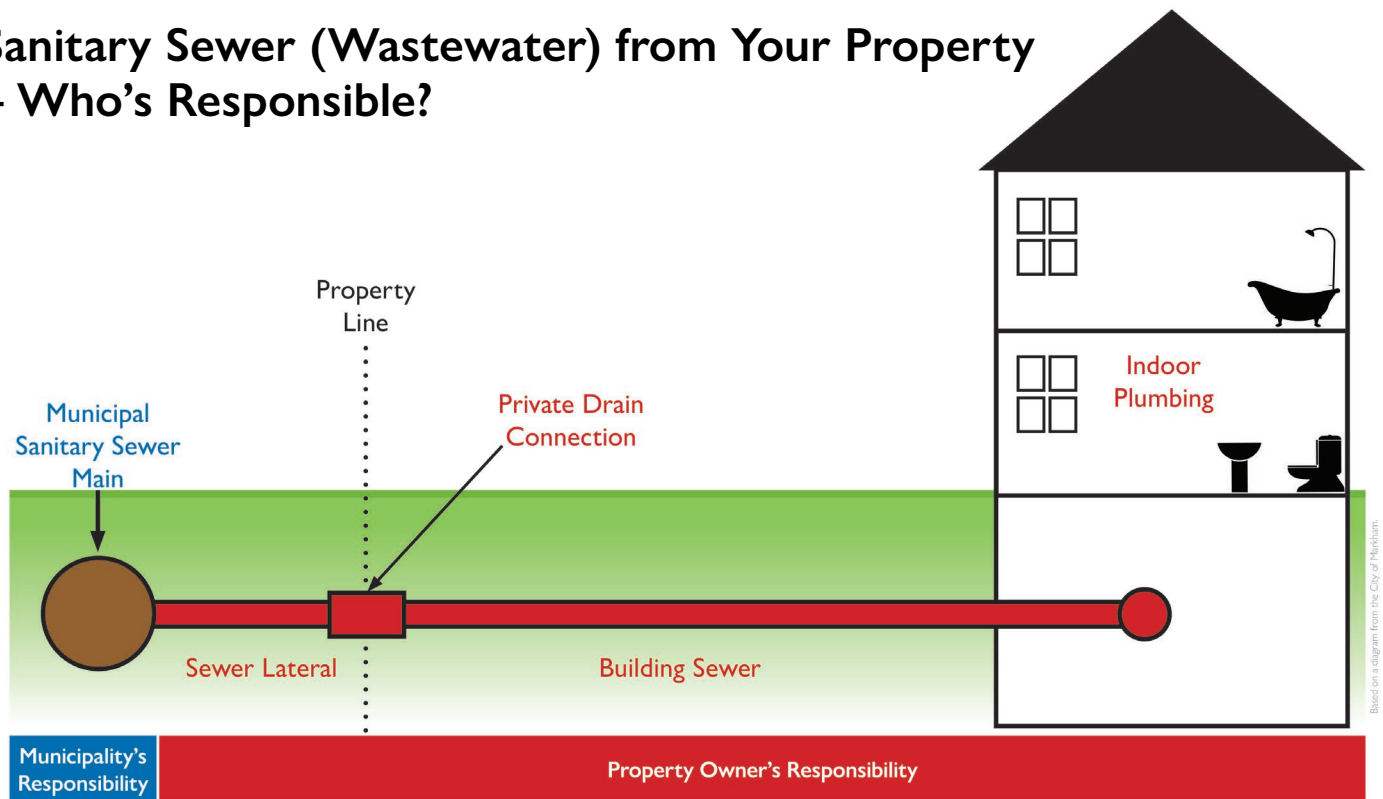


Sanitary Sewer (Wastewater) from Your Property – Who’s Responsible?



Middlesex Centre’s Responsibility

Sanitary Sewer: Underground pipes throughout the municipality that carry wastewater back to the municipal wastewater treatment plant; also called wastewater mains or sewer mains.

Property Owner's Responsibility

Sewer Lateral, Private Drain Connection, and Building Sewer: The pipes that run between the sanitary sewer and your home or building.

Indoor Plumbing: The system of pipes, drains, fittings, valves and fixtures in your building that move wastewater to the service line.

Making Repairs to Your Connection to the Sewer

The building sewer on your property will have a “cleanout” typically inside the basement at the front wall (often in the floor covered by a wooden lid). In some neighbourhoods you might see a white 3- or 4-inch pipe in your front yard, which is also a cleanout. A plumbing or drainage contractor can help you determine if the building sewer has a blockage or requires repairs by inspecting the condition of the pipe via the cleanout. Blockages may be caused by a pipe collapse or by an obstruction such as tree roots or a build-up of grease, flushable wipes or other materials. In many cases, the contractor can remove the blockage via the cleanout.

If you need repairs to your building sewer, private drain connection, or sewer lateral that involve any excavation, your first step should be a call or email to Middlesex Centre’s Building Division. A building inspector will help you determine if you require a building permit or a roadwork permit. Any reputable contractor should recommend this step as well. If a permit is required, you can arrange to have your contractor get the permit on your behalf.

You can reach Middlesex Centre’s Building Division at 519-666-0190 or building@middlesexcentre.ca.