

# Care & Conserve Sewer Line Repairs

The City of Atlanta is pleased to announce that the Department of Watershed Management can now provide assistance through its Care & Conserve program to low-income families who need help repairing or replacing clogged, broken and crumbling sewer laterals carrying sewage/wastewater from their homes to the City's sewer system.

Care & Conserve, the City's bill payment assistance program, is funded by Community Development Block Grants, voluntary customer contributions and corporate donations.

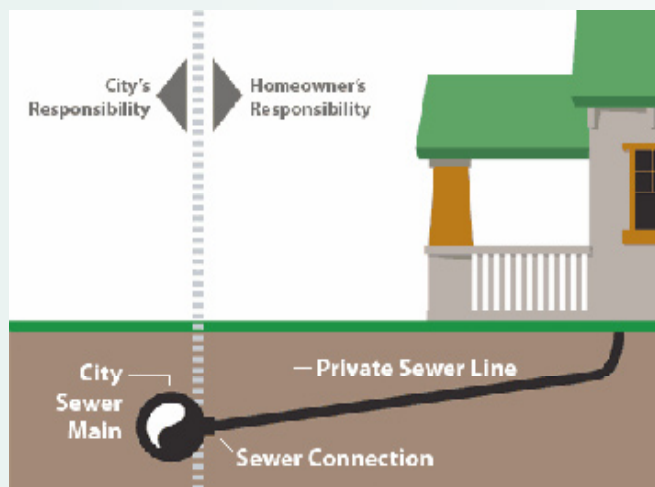
## What is a sewer lateral?

Sanitary sewer overflows can be caused by a number of factors. They usually involve sewer pipe blockages in either main sewer lines or service laterals (lines between buildings and the main line). Causes can include pipe breaks or cracks due to tree roots or system deterioration, insufficient system capacity resulting from residential or commercial growth, or construction mishaps. In home and office plumbing systems, accumulation of grease, tree roots, hair or solid materials, such as disposable diapers or sanitary napkins, are the primary causes of sewer backups. Such materials may cause major backups in City lines as well as in residents' lateral lines. While the City is responsible for maintaining the sewer and drain lines located in the public right-of-way, property owners are responsible for the maintenance of the lines that extend from their building to the City's sewer pipe.

## Why repairs?

Sewer lateral blockages or collapses can pose health risks. Failure to repair a blockage or break can damage the sewer system or create conditions that threaten public health and safety. Consequently, it is important that damaged or broken laterals be fixed promptly and correctly. The repairs also are essential to preventing health and safety problems due to mold, mildew, plumbing backups and other concerns.

However, repairing or replacing sewer lines/laterals and crumbling sewer pipes on private property can



be an expensive undertaking. Under the Sewer Lateral Program, the City will provide direct assistance to qualifying property owners with completely blocked or collapsed sewer laterals. The Sewer Lateral Program is a **one-time** opportunity available to customers who meet eligibility requirements.

## How can I get assistance?

Contact Southeast Energy Assistance, 404-885-1877, and a representative will help determine if you are eligible to receive assistance.

## Who is eligible for assistance?

Atlanta water and sewer customers are eligible for assistance through Care & Conserve if they:

- \* Fall at or below the federal poverty guidelines; (see income table below)
- \* Own the property that sits atop the blocked lateral;
- \* Are current with their water/sewer bills; and
- \* Have not previously received assistance through this program

## 2008 Income Guidelines

Family Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$39,850	\$3,320.83
2	\$45,550	\$3,795.83
3	\$51,250	\$4,270.83
4	\$56,950	\$4,745.83
5	\$61,500	\$5,125.00
6	\$66,050	\$5,504.17
7	\$70,650	\$5,887.50
8	\$75,200	\$6,266.67

Each Additional Members add \$5,700 \$475



A program of the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management