

# **SEWER MAINTENANCE**

## **Property Owner's Responsibility**

The Township of Barnegat is responsible for maintaining unobstructed wastewater flow in the sanitary system. The line that connects a house or building to the City sewer system is called a "service lateral". If a blockage occurs causing a sewer backup, the Township encourages residents to call so a crew can verify which part of the line is obstructed.

A crew will check the main line and clear the line if necessary. If the main line is clear, the property owner will be notified of the need to call a plumber to clear the service lateral. Occasionally there are blockages in service laterals that extend into the utility right-of-way. Should this occur, the Township will maintain the line to the cleanout. However, the property owner is ultimately responsible from the house to the curb. If there is no cleanout to the curb the property owner is responsible from the curb to the main.

## **Why Do Sewer Lines Block?**

Many things can become lodged in a sewer line causing backup: e.g. sticks, rocks, bricks, pieces of broken pipe, string, gas, grease, paper towels, newspaper, sanitary napkins, plastic, etc. Many blockages occur as a result of tree roots growing into the sewer pipes. Roots collect grease and animal fat poured down drains. Over time, this collection of debris can cause an obstruction. You can prevent sewer backups in your home and protect the environment if you adhere to the following advice:

1. Avoid using hot water to dissolve grease on cookware. When dissolved grease touches cold pipes it immediately coagulates and collects on the walls of pipes.
2. Don't put eggshells in garbage disposals. Eggshells also collect on pipe walls.
3. Always run water first before loading your garbage disposal.
4. Don't flush diapers, sanitary napkins and other bulky paper products down the toilet.

**REMEMBER ALL OF THE ABOVE.  
HELP US TO HELP YOU.**