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WELCOME TO THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WEBSITE

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What should I do if sewage backs up into my home?

- First, take action to protect people and valuable property.
- Keep in mind that ceramic plumbing fixtures such as toilets are fragile, Close all drain openings with stoppers or plugs. Tub, sink, and floor drains may need additional weight to keep them sealed. A string mop can be used to help plug toilet openings.
- Don't run any water down your drains until the blockage has been cleared.
- A quick check with nearby neighbors will help determine if the backup appears to be in your neighbor's wastewater line, and or widespread in your this case .In this case, call the Department of Public Works immediately. Numbers are listed at the end of this notice.
- Call a plumber if the problem is in your lateral service line.

Is there anything I can do to prevent sewage backup into my home?

- Avoid putting grease down your garbage disposal or household drain.
- Never flush disposable diapers, sanitary napkins or paper towels down
- If the lateral line in your older home has a jointed pipe system, consider whether the roots of large shrubs or trees near the line could invade and break pipes. It is a good idea to know the location of your lateral line(s).
- If the lowest level of your home is below ground level, such as a basement floor drain, it may one day be affected by a backup. One way to prevent sewage backup through such below ground areas is to Install a "back flow valve" on the on the lowest drain(s).
- You can also use a plumber's test plug to close these drains when not in use. For further information about preventive measures, contact a plumber or plumbing supply dealer.

What does the Township do to prevent this problem?

- Every attempt is made to prevent backups in the public wastewater system before they occur.
- Sewer lines are specially designed to prevent accumulation and stoppages. In addition, we have maintenance crews that are devoted to inspecting and cleaning wastewater lines throughout the Town on a regular schedule.
- Even with our maintenance schedule, however, backups are often beyond the
- Town's control. Most that do occur are confined to the sewage pipeline