CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS PUBLIC WORKS – 314-645-2277
SEWER LATERAL INSURANCE PROGRAM POLICIES

1. This program applies to single-family residential units (six dwelling units or less) and has taken effect January 1, 2000. Beginning with Real Estate Property Tax bill in 1999, and each year thereafter, a maximum fee of $50.00 will be charged to the applicable property owner. Owners of residential dwellings who are delinquent in paying tax bill will not be allowed to participate in the program.

2. The portion of the residential sewer lateral that is covered under this program is the portion that runs from Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's main sewer line up to within five (5) feet of the residential dwelling unit, including porches, attached structures and decks. The homeowner is responsible for the entire cost of repair or replacement of their sewer lateral inside their home and within the above parameters.

3. Effective June 1, 2025, the sewer lateral program will cover a maximum reimbursement of $2,500 to the owner of a single-family home, townhome, or multi-family building containing six (6) or less dwelling units. Each property will be able to participate in the program once in a 10-year period.

4. The following costs are eligible for reimbursement under the program to the extent that they are damaged and/or removed to accomplish the repair to the sanitary sewer lateral, up to $2,500. Any costs associated with a sewer lateral repair over $2,500, shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

    - The cost of excavation and repair or replacement of the defective sanitary sewer lateral between the home and MSD sewer main. This program does not cover excavation and repair under the home or any structure.
    - The cost of removal of any site improvements necessary for excavation to repair or replace the sewer lateral that includes streets, sidewalks, driveways, fences, trees, landscaping, etc.
    - The cost of restoration to the public right of way that includes the street, sidewalk, driveway approach and tree lawn.

5. The following costs are NOT eligible for reimbursement that include but are not limited to the following

    - The initial costs of cabling, jetting or other methods to attempt to clear the sewer lateral blockage before repair.
    - The cost of investigation and videotaping of the sanitary sewer lateral to determine the defect.
    - The cost of interior cleanup or other damage to the home or property due to a sewer lateral backup.
    - The replacement of cracked or misaligned pipes that do not interfere with the flow of sewage.
    - The top section of a sewer lateral cleanout. The homeowner is responsible for locating and maintaining top section of sewer lateral cleanout.
    - Any repairs to the sewer lateral caused by a natural disaster or damage caused during other excavations or construction on the site.
    - Any sewer lateral repairs that were not approved by the City under the sewer lateral program.

6. When the homeowner is experiencing a problem or blockage with their sewer lateral, they shall do the following.

    - Call a licensed plumber to cable or jet the sewer lateral to clear the blockage at the homeowner's expense.
    - If the problem is not resolved through cabling or jetting, the homeowner should visit the city's website at www.richmondheights.org/slrp for the most current program information, applications and permits.
    - Submit the "Sewer Lateral Homeowner Application" along with any inspection reports or videos that you received from your plumber.
    - The City will review the application and supporting documents to determine if the projects qualifies under the program.
    - They City may need to do its own video investigation to determine if a repair is needed and/or qualifies under the program.

7. Once a repair has been approved to be completed under the sewer lateral program, the homeowner shall hire a qualified and licensed sewer lateral contractor to make the repairs. The contractor shall apply for and obtain all necessary permits prior to construction that may be needed. These permits are as follows.

    - Special Use Permit for excavation work in the public right of Way (Richmond Heights)
    - Plumbing Permit (St Louis County and/or MSD)

8. Once the approved sewer lateral work and all restoration to the public right of way has been completed by the homeowner's contractor and approved by the City, the homeowner can apply for reimbursement. The homeowner will need to provide a contractor's line item invoice and paid receipt with lien waiver to receive reimbursement of up to $2,500 maximum.

9. In the event a dispute would arise regarding any issue involved with this program and negotiation has been unsuccessful, the City Manager shall be the final arbitrator.

10. The City will not be held responsible for any damages due to outside construction by either homeowner and/or contractor.

11. In the event the funds for the Sewer Lateral Program become depleted, the homeowner will be put on a list and will be reimbursed once funds become available.

12. The Sewer Lateral Repair Program is intended to help homeowners who have continuous blockages and have no sewer service. It is not intended to satisfy a home sale contingency. If an application is approved for a real estate transaction, that application shall be completed by the current owner of the house.

13. Homeowner shall locate and notify their Contractor of any underground facilities that could be damaged during excavation. These facilities include but are not limited to irrigation, dog fences, private drainage and electrical lighting systems. The City is not responsible for any damage to unmarked or unknown underground facilities.