

Sewer back-ups are a frustrating experience for property owners. In our Village, as in other municipalities, the property owner is responsible for maintenance of the lateral sewer line from their property to the sewer main. The Village is responsible for maintaining the main sewer line only.

Sewer lines become blocked due to build-up or debris in the pipes that becomes trapped and results in a back up. When this occurs, wastewater from the home or business is blocked from flowing into the main and flows backwards – through the first available plumbing appliance outlet. A large deluge of rain or flood waters may also cause back-ups when the main lines become overwhelmed with runoff.

The Village Department of Public Works will respond and investigate all sewer back-ups. If there is a problem with the main line, the Village will make sure the problem is addressed and repaired as soon as possible. However, if the problem is within a lateral line, the property owner will be informed and advised to call a licensed plumber.

### **Methods to Prevent Sewer**

#### **Back-Ups**

Don't plant trees or large shrubs near sewer lines

Slow drain lines should be cleared to increase drainage from the property into the main.

Dispose of grease and fats in the trash.

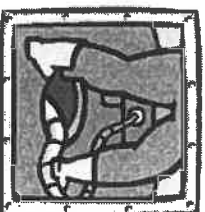
Dispose of diapers or other disposable hygiene products in the trash.

Only dispose of bones and food scraps down your sink when you have an appliance to grind them before disposal.

Don't connect backyard drains, sump pumps and other flood control systems to the sanitary sewer. Consult a licensed plumber to undo any illegal connections.

Consider purchasing a back-flow valve (preventor) into your sewer system. A properly installed valve can significantly reduce the likelihood of wastewater entering your property.

## **AVOIDING SEWER BACK-UPS**



### **A Guide for Property Owners in the Village of Malone**

**Provided by DPW Supervisor  
and the Village of Malone  
Department of Public Works**



**Prepared by the New York Municipal Insurance  
Reciprocal**