

NOTICE

FROM THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REGARDING SEWER BACKWATER VALVES

Most properties in your area are connected to public (mainline) sewers. The majority of these properties have been built so that a blockage in the public sewer will not cause a sewage backup into the property.

Other properties require the protection of a backwater valve in the owner's drain line. These properties have been built (see picture) so that the drain of the lowest plumbing fixture (bath tub shower, etc.,) is lower than the upper manhole of the public sewer. The backwater valve is designed to automatically shut to prevent sewage from backing up into the building from a blocked public sewer.

If your property appears to require a backwater valve, but you do not know if one has been installed, we strongly encourage you to call a licensed plumber, who can evaluate your situation and, if necessary, install a backwater valve.

Backwater valves must be checked to ensure that they are operating properly at all times. Root cleaning machines, debris in the drain line, or other problems can easily damage or interfere with the proper operation of backwater valves.

A Plumbing Permit is required for the installation of a backwater valve. For more information or to contact your local Building and Safety Permit location, please call the toll-free Department of Building and Safety Customer Call Center at 888 LA-4-BUILD 888/524-2845.

For additional information or assistance, customers may contact 311 or visit the Bureau of Sanitation's Website at www.lasewers.org

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