

Sewer cleaning and inspection program

What are sewers?

Sewers are underground pipes that carry wastewater from homes and businesses to the City of Revelstokes lagoon, where it is treated and then released to the river. Everything you pour down your drains or flush down your toilet goes into a sewer.

Why are you cleaning and inspecting the sewers?

The cleaning and inspection program keeps the sewer system operating efficiently by:

- helping prevent blockages and backups
- removing built-up debris, such as tree roots, grease, grit and sand
- determining the condition of the sewer so we can repair or replace sewers as necessary

How do you clean the sewers?

We use a high-pressure nozzle to flush water down the sewer. The dirt and debris are sucked up through a manhole by a large vacuum truck and taken to the landfill.

How do you inspect the sewers?

We insert a remotely operated video camera into the sewer to record its condition. From the video we can tell if we need to repair or replace the sewer.



Do you clean and inspect the sewers at the same time?

We clean and inspect some sewers at the same time. We clean others and then return within two weeks to inspect them.

How long does it take to clean the sewers on each street?

It usually takes about one day to clean the sewer on each block. However, some sewers can take longer, depending on their size and condition.

Do I need to do anything before you clean/inspect the sewers on my street?

Yes. Occasionally during cleaning and inspection, air pressure in the sewer can cause water to splash out through toilets, sinks and drains. Take the following precautions to prevent water damage in your home:

- Close the lids on all toilet bowls when not in use.
- Insert drain plugs in all sinks and bathtubs when not in use.
- Remove all floor mats in bathrooms.
- Place an old towel around the base of toilets.
- If you have a float plug in your floor drain or a backwater valve installed in your house, ensure that it is free of debris and operating properly.

Will I notice anything after you have cleaned/inspected the sewers on my street?

Sometimes the sewer cleaning and inspection leaves an odour in the home. If so, run some water down the sink and bathtub drains, flush the toilets, pour a pail of water into each basement floor drain, and open the windows. After a short time, the odour should disappear.

Can I use the toilets and my water while you are cleaning and inspecting the sewer on my block?

Yes. However, be careful as air pressure in the sewer during the cleaning and inspection can sometimes cause water to splash out through toilets, sinks and drains. Remember to close the lids on all toilet bowls when not in use, and insert drain plugs in all sinks and bathtubs when not in use.



Ways you can protect your home against sewer backup

The sewer cleaning and inspection program is one of the steps that we take to reduce the risk of sewer backup.

There are steps you can take to protect your home against basement flooding, including:

- install a backwater valve and sump pit drainage system
- check and maintain your backwater valve and sump pit drainage system regularly
- improve drainage around your house

When do you clean and inspect the sewers?

1. A sewer cleaning and inspection program - we clean and inspect sewers in selected areas of the city each year, usually from April to October, Monday to Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.