

Our sewer system is at a turning point ...

Growth, now and in the future, is placing greater demands on the sanitary sewer system. In some areas, facilities may need to be expanded to accommodate the additional waste water which will be produced. Any improvements needed will be addressed as parts of the long term capital improvement program.

There are, however, other demands being placed on the system which are not related to growth. These result from stormwater which is being diverted improperly to the sanitary sewer rather than a natural drainage area. These stormwater discharges often overload the system and - if not removed - could result in the need to expand facilities that would normally be adequate to handle all sanitary needs.

Your help is absolutely critical ...

Your help is needed to avoid unnecessary improvements that will be required if extraneous flow cannot be removed from the sanitary sewer system. Many residents may not even know if they have an improper or unauthorized drainage connection to the sanitary sewer system. Here's where we need your help. Please review the information in this brochure, then check you home or business to see if you might have an improper connection. If you feel there is concern, please contact the Village of Spencerville (419-647-6263) so a Village employee can meet with you to determine if a potential connection is causing problems.

For more information or assistance please call the Village of Spencerville Wastewater Division at 419-647-6263 7:00 - 3:30

Why storm water is such a problem ...

An 8-inch sewer line can service the sanitary needs of as many as 456 homes. Yet, during times of significant rainfall, that same 8-inch sewer line can be overloaded by only 36 homes from which rain-water drainage discharges through improper connections (either direct connections or through sump pump systems.)

A critical concern for all of us ...

Stormwater inflow and infiltration, particularly during periods of heavy rain and snow melt are causing two serious problems:

- One obvious problem is sewer back-ups, which can occur when a sewer system is required to handle more than its designed flow. These back-ups not only cause serious problems for the affected homeowner, but could also negatively affect our property values on a community-wide basis. It severely restricts future residential and commercial development as experienced by other communities.
- Another costly problem is that our Wastewater Treatment Plant must treat water which wasn't sanitary in nature before it entered the system. The bottom line is that we, as a Village, incur the cost of treatment, not to mention the potential environmental issues involved when flows exceed the capacity of the system due to excessive amounts of stormwater.

What the Village has already done ...

- Visibly inspected over 230 manholes.
- Dye watered and smoke tested sanitary sewers for leakage and unauthorized connections.
- TV'd sanitary sewer lines to detect obstructions and offsets.
- Trained Village personnel in detecting unauthorized connections.
- Allocated and received grant money in 1996 and 1997 for infiltration and inflow studies, repairs, and equipment.

The Village of Spencerville is committed to correcting this infiltration problem, but we will need your cooperation to bring about change as soon as possible. By doing a visual inspection of your residence and determining if you have an unauthorized connection, you can eliminate inflow to the sanitary sewer immediately.

How the Village can help ...

Should you suspect that you have an improper connection to the sewer system, Village crews are available to check the connection for you without cost. Should the connection be improper, the Village can assist by suggesting alternatives to correct the problem