



Sewer Back-Up into Homeowner's Basement Protocol

If a homeowner has wastewater that is backed up into their basement, the first thing that should be done is call the Wastewater Facility to make sure the sewer main is not blocked or plugged. They can call the WWTF at 608-326-8534 between the hours of 6:30am to 3:00pm on weekdays and 6:30am to 10:30am on weekends or after hours call the police dispatch at 608-326-2421, to have a wastewater operator dispatched to check the sanitary sewer main.

If the operators find that the sanitary sewer is plugged, they will jet the main out to unplug the main and remove the cause of obstruction. If the main is not plugged, the homeowner will have to contact a plumber to have their own sewer lateral rodded, to unplug their lateral. The City owns the sanitary sewer main, but the homeowner owns the sewer lateral from the main all the way to their home. If the homeowner calls the City first and the City finds the main is plugged, the City will jet the sewer line out generally at no cost to the homeowner. If the homeowner calls a plumber first and the plumber finds the homeowner's lateral is not plugged and finds that the main is, the City cannot be responsible for the cost(s) generated by the plumber.

The City does have an ordinance that states: *The City of Prairie du Chien shall not be responsible for any damage caused nor costs incurred by any person, firm, corporation, or entity due to the backup of raw sewage into any structure connected to the City of Prairie du Chien sewer system.*
Section XVII – Created by Ordinance 2010-26

The City cannot be responsible for any items, products, materials that are placed or found in the sewer main or lateral. (Ex. Sanitary wipes, hygiene products, medications & supplements, trash, metals & plastics, fats, oils or grease, paper towels or roots)

6. Miscellaneous costs.
7. Miscellaneous charges.

SECTION XIV – DEBT SERVICE

Sewer user charges are to be collected for principle and interest payments, for public benefit funds, and for any other purpose provided by law not related to the operation, maintenance, and replacement of the waste treatment works. Revenue to repay debt will be generated by the fixed charge plus a volume charge.

SECTION XV – ACCOUNTING

(1) MONEY. All user charge payments shall be placed in the sewer account. Such money shall be used only to cover the costs of operation and maintenance, replacement, toxins, handling, sampling, and other costs as outlined in the Ordinance.

(2) EXPENDITURES. Expenditures shall be made from the user charge monies by the City in accordance with the detailed annual budget and ordinances authorized by the City.

(3) REPLACEMENT FUND. The Replacement Fund is an accrued account for the repair and replacement of equipment, piping, building, etc., at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This account shall be funded at a rate of \$76,800/year.

(4) RENEWALS. Renewals to accommodate wear of physical elements and/or movable property shall be capital expenditures that cause the annual estimate for accrued reserves from replacement to be evaluated in terms of extended useful life as a result of preventive maintenance programs or of such renewals. The expenditures to overcome physical and/or functional obsolescence shall be capitalized against the element of the facility and charged to the fixed assets group of accounts as an improvement to such element. Future estimates of accrued reserve requirements shall be evaluated and reflected in the replacement reserve requirements.

(5) AUDIT. An Audit shall be performed annually at the same time and in the same manner that the other books of account of the City are audited.

SECTION XVI – DATE PUBLISHED, APPROVED AND EFFECTIVE¹⁴

This Ordinance shall take effect on passage, approval and publication.

SECTION XVII – LIABILITY FOR SEWER BACK-UPS¹⁵

The City of Prairie du Chien shall not be responsible for any damage caused nor costs incurred by any person, firm, corporation, or entity due to the backup of raw sewage into any structure connected to the City of Prairie du Chien sewer system.

13.19 (DISCHARGE OF CLEAR WATER REGULATED)

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water or clear water drains of any kind, including subsoil drains, building drains, tile drains, down spouts from roof gutters, surface drains, drains from any mechanical device, ditches, pipes, conduits, sump pumps or any other objects or things used for the purpose of collecting, conducting, transporting, diverting, draining or discharging clear waters into a sewer designed or designated as a sanitary sewer, and all of said waters shall be discharged into a storm sewer wherever possible; provided, however, that no such discharge into a storm sewer shall be permitted between November 30 and March 31 of each year, unless connected by underground laterals. During such period and where no storm sewer is available, such water may be discharged onto the owner's lawn or into an underground conduit leading to a drainage ditch or dry well, but no such discharge shall be allowed or permitted to flow on or across any public street, sidewalk or right of way.

13.25 (PENALTY)

In addition to the penalties otherwise specifically provided, any person who shall violate any provision of this subchapter or any order, rule or regulation there under shall be subject to a penalty as provided in sec. 25.04 of this Code.

¹⁴ Section XVI - Amended by Ordinance 2004-02

¹⁵ Section XVII - Created by Ordinance 2010-26

Please **do not** Flush

Even though a product may be small enough to be flushed, does not mean it should be. Flushing items that are not meant to be flushed, including those labeled *flushable*, can lead to problems in the sewer system, at the wastewater treatment facility, and for the environment.



Baby

SANITARY WIPES



FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS



MEDICATIONS & SUPPLEMENTS



Kleenex



TRASH



METALS & PLASTICS



FATS, OILS & GREASE



CHEMICALS



Paper Towels

