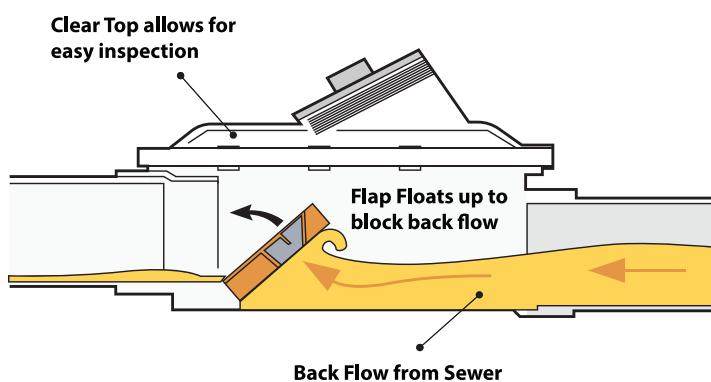
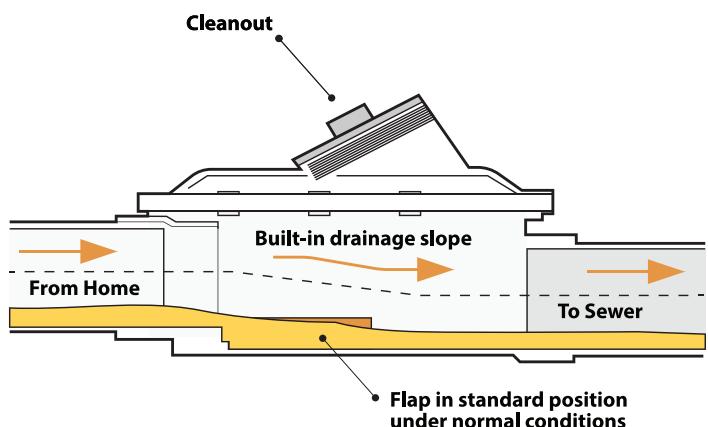


# Prevent Damage from Sewer Backups with Backwater Valves

## Backwater Valves

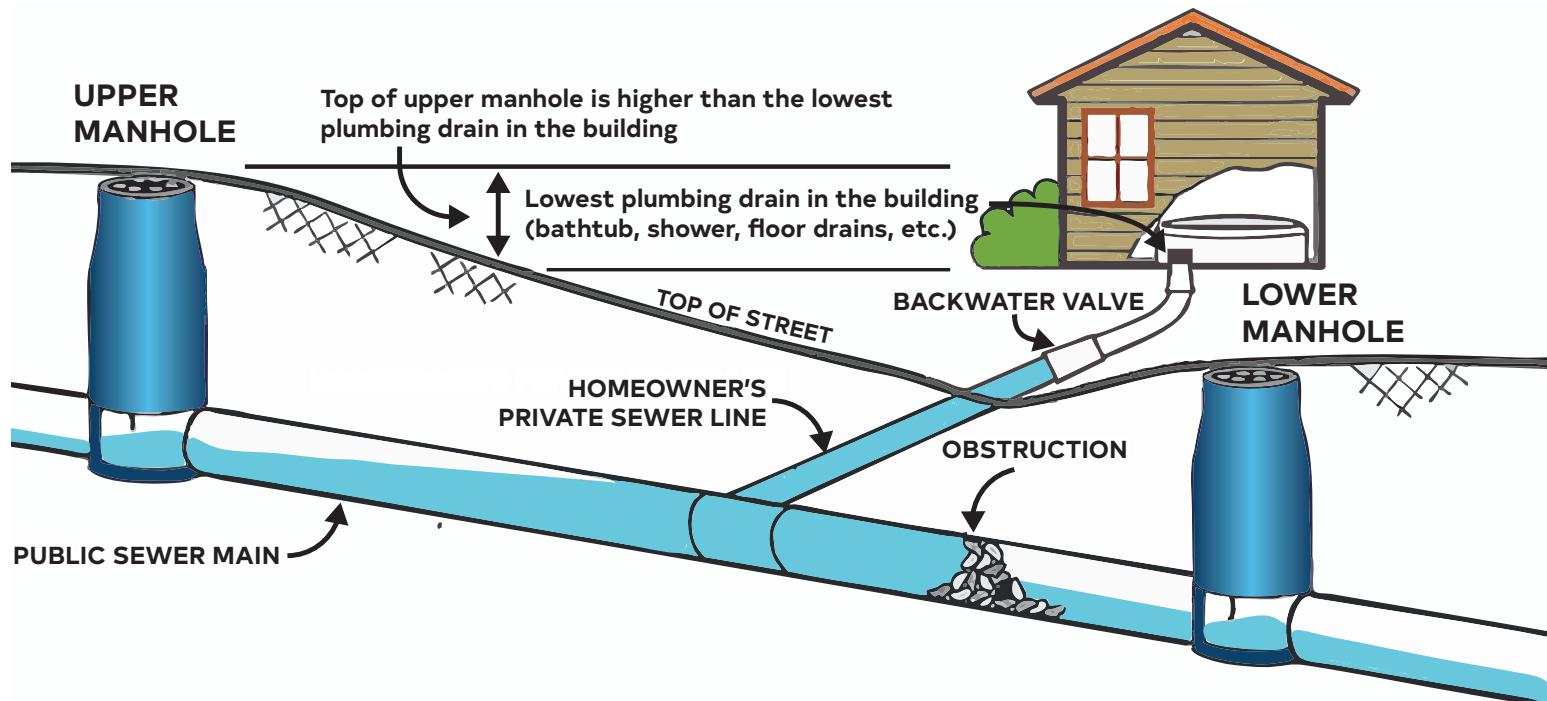
A backwater valve is a simple, gravity-flow activated check valve assembly installed on the customer's private sewer service line to prevent waste water from flowing back into the residence at the lowest plumbing fixture.



## Quick Facts

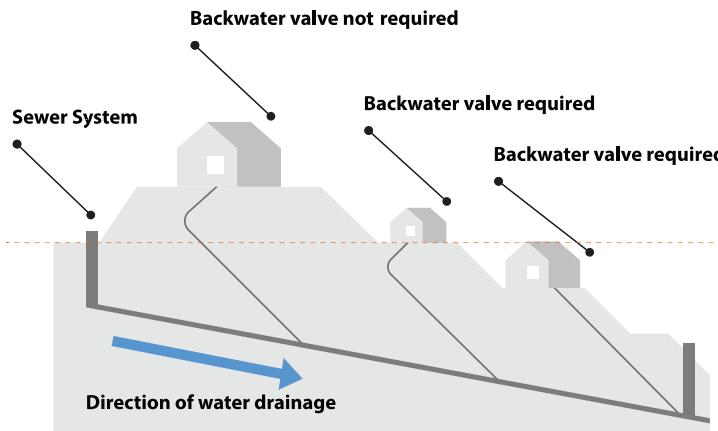
- 01 The City of Raleigh Municipal Code places the responsibility of installation and maintenance of the backwater valve assembly upon the homeowner.
- 02 The City of Raleigh Public Utilities Sewer Maintenance Division has an aggressive sanitary sewer overflow prevention program to keep grease, roots, flushed wipes, and other unwanted materials out of the sanitary sewer system.
- 03 Blockages and overflows in sanitary sewer mains can occur without advanced warning for many reasons including but not limited to: rainfalls, pipe failures, vandalism, illegal discharges, and/or roots.
- 04 The City of Raleigh is not responsible for property damages due to sewer backups that originate from issues within privately owned sewer laterals.
- 05 Standard homeowner insurance policies may not cover damages from sanitary sewer backups. If the likelihood of a sewer backup exists at the residence, additional coverage is recommended.

# TYPICAL SITUATION WHERE A BACKWATER VALVE IS NECESSARY



## Example

If the lowest finished floor of your house or business is lower than the nearest upstream manhole lid in the street or easement, then the property is at a HIGH RISK of damage from a sanitary sewer backup. A blockage in the sewer main beyond your sewer service line can cause sewage to flow from the main back into your service. This backup will occur at the point of least resistance, which is usually a floor drain or toilet.



## Report Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Please call the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department to report excessive sewage smells, a sanitary sewer backup or overflow.

**919-996-3245**

**24 Hours / 7 Days Holidays & Weekends**

Public Utilities Department  
Sewer Maintenance Division  
PO Box 590  
Raleigh, NC 27602  
919-996-3245



**Raleigh  
Water**