



Heritage Complex
2662 Riva Road, 2nd Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401

Christopher J. Phipps, P.E.
Director, Department of Public Works

April 22, 2014

US MAIL & HAND DELIVERY

Re: Sylvan Shores Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Systems
Ownership and Maintenance of Water and Sewer House Connections

Dear Sylvan Shores Owner/Resident:

The Department of Public Works would like to take this opportunity to address several issues regarding ownership and maintenance of new water and sewer house connections in your community. Included in this information package are important tips that can prevent future plumbing problems.

Ownership and Maintenance

The contractor has a one-year maintenance obligation for new water connections (between the house and the meter) and sewer connections (between the house and the cleanout). This obligation is strictly for new connections and begins after the work is completed and accepted by the County. This corresponds roughly with the end of the project, or October 3, 2014. However, this is subject to change. The one-year maintenance period will end a year later.

Once the contractor's maintenance period expires, these sections of a property owner's plumbing infrastructure become the sole responsibility of the individual homeowner. Anne Arundel County will not be responsible for any maintenance or repairs associated with these connections.

Anne Arundel County's Responsibility - Water

The County owns and will maintain the large water mains in the roads (and in some cases in the green areas) and water house connection lines from the mains to the meters. The County does not own and will not maintain water house connection lines between the meter and the house.

Anne Arundel County's Responsibility - Sewer

The County owns and will maintain the large sewer mains in the roads (and in some cases in the green areas) and sewer house connection lines from the mains to the cleanouts. The County does not

own and will not maintain sewer house connection lines between the cleanout and the house. Any grinder pumps or low pressure sewer mains utilized in select special cases are also owned and maintained by the County. The County does not own and will not maintain sewer house connection lines between the grinder pump and the house.

Preventing Backups

Sewage back-ups can be unpleasant, costly and, in many cases, prevented. Avoid potential backups by never flushing anything down your toilet other than toilet paper and human waste. Baby wipes and other consumer products may be marketed as "disposable" or "flushable" but they do not break down like toilet paper, and can cause significant buildup in pipes, and eventual backups. They also can clog County pump stations (like the one in the Sylvan Shores community), causing failure, and sewage overflow into local waterways. Grease, fats, and oils can also create blockages and should never be washed down the drain. Recent video inspection of the newly installed sewers indicates that discharge of grease, fats, and oils from some Sylvan Shores homes has already begun to have impacts on the mains.

Finally, the County sewer system is not designed to accept rainwater. It is illegal to connect roof downspouts, surface drains, and sump pumps to the County sewer system. These lines must discharge to the ground surface.

Please contact me at 410-222-7569 for questions regarding the Sylvan Shores project. General questions or inquiries should be directed to DPW Customer Relations at 410-222-7582. For sewer back-up or water leak outside your home, contact 24-hr Emergency Services for Utilities at 410-222-8400.

Sincerely,



John F. Bassford, Jr., P.E.
Project Manager – Utility Design Group
Bureau of Engineering

JB
Attachments

cc: Stephen H. Burzenski, P.E., Acting Assistant Chief Engineer, DPW, MS-7213
Matt Diehl, Manager, Customer Relations, MS-7400
Leslie Campbell, Manager, Financial Services, MS-7408
James DiPietro, Deputy Director, Utility Operations, MS-7409
David Watts, Utility Operations Administrator, W & WW Maintenance, MS-5302
Acting Utility Operations Administrator, Water Operations, MS-4295
Loretta Leahy, Dewberry & Davis, LLC, Design & Inspection Consultant
Jim Higgins, Dewberry & Davis, LLC, Inspector
Ray Schummer, Schummer, Inc
File: W803701(14); S803801(14)
J:\JBassford\Sylvan Shores Water & Sewer Replacement\S803801(14) Connection Ownership & Maintenance (3).DOC



Anne Arundel County
Department of Public Works

2662 Riva Road
Annapolis, MD 21401
www.aacounty.org/dpw

DPW Mission

To respond promptly to customer service concerns,

To safeguard the environment,

To constantly respect the cost consciousness of the citizens of Anne Arundel County, and

To be stewards of the environment by maintaining a high quality of life that balances need for a healthy natural environment with the need for a sustainable economy.

Numbers to Know

24-hour Utilities
Emergency Service
(410) 222-8400

Emergency Management
(410) 222-0600

DPW Customer Relations
(410) 222-1758

Police Department
(410) 222-8050

Fire Department
(410) 222-8200

Utilities Billing
(410) 222-1144



Keep wipes out of your pipes...Save \$\$\$

Very few things in life are as unpleasant as a sewage backup in your home. To add insult to injury, more often than not, the cleanup and repairs are not covered by most homeowner insurance policies.

To avoid this nasty situation never flush anything down your toilet other than toilet paper itself. Baby wipes and other "disposable" or "flushable" consumer products will wreak havoc on you plumbing and your checkbook.

The manufacturers' labels on many paper products do not describe how to properly dispose of them. Anything other than toilet paper will not breakdown properly in the flushing process, and will result in a blockage in your pipes and eventually a backup of wastewater in your basement or the lowest drain in your home.

On a larger scale, when these products reach the public sewer system, they will cause blockages in your neighborhood pump stations. When these pump stations are clogged, they stop working. The results can be very costly and damaging to the environment. Blockages in the public sewer system could cause raw sewage to overflow into local waterways where you swim and fish.



Diapers
Disinfecting wipes
Baby wipes
Cotton swabs
Toilet cleaning pads
Mop refills
Paper towels
Moist toiettes
Feminine hygiene products

If you are not sure what should or shouldn't be flushed, remember -

**If it's not toilet paper, and if you didn't eat it first,
it should NOT go in the toilet.
WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T FLUSH!**



facebook.com/annearundeldpw



Follow us on
Twitter

twitter.com/AACoDPW