

**Do you have a chronic  
sanitary sewer backup  
problem?**

The City of Decatur has a program to help stop sewer backups in your home. The program is available to homeowners within the City of Decatur city limits. This brochure gives overview of the "Sanitary Sewer Backup Prevention Program" to eliminate the constant fear that a backup will happen again.



Visit

[www.decaturl.gov/citygovernment/  
engineering/  
sewerbackupprevention.html](http://www.decaturl.gov/citygovernment/engineering/sewerbackupprevention.html)

or call 217-424-2747 for more information and application forms.

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City of Decatur  
Public Works Department  
One Gary K. Anderson Plaza  
Decatur, IL 62523



CITY OF DECATUR

**SANITARY SEWER  
BACKUP  
PREVENTION  
PROGRAM**

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Public Works Department  
One Gary K. Anderson Plaza  
Decatur, IL 62523  
[www.ci.decaturl.gov](http://www.ci.decaturl.gov)



**Phone: 217-424-2747**

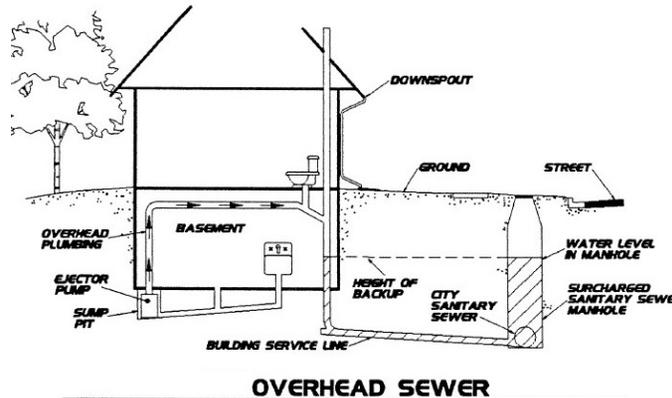
## Sanitary Sewer Backup Prevention Program

The City of Decatur has a financial assistance program for Decatur homeowners who have had sewer backup problems. The program will help pay 75% of the cost—up to \$5,625—for the installation of an “overhead sewer system”, described below. Properties receiving assistance from the program will be required to have any illegal connections such as footing drains, sump pumps, downspouts, or storm drains disconnected from the sanitary sewer at the property owner’s expense. Property owners must permit the City to inspect the property for those connections prior to approval for participation in the program to insure compliance with City ordinance.



### What is an Overhead Sewer System?

An “Overhead Sewer System” is much like a sump pump for waste water. The floor drains and any plumbing fixtures in your house that are lower the City’s sewer system manhole elevations will be disconnected. Plumbing from those fixtures will be re-routed to a sealed tank. Inside the tank, an ejector pump lifts the waste water into new



plumbing before dumping into your existing sewer line. Often the new plumbing is connected “overhead” to pipes that lead out of your house and dump into the sewer line. Since the fixtures in the lower level are no longer directly connected to the sewer line, they cannot experience a backup. Plumbing fixtures in your home that are above the manholes of the city sewer system need not be routed through the ejector pump system.

### Make an Application and Get an Estimate

Homeowners should contact the City’s Public Works Department to begin the application process for an overhead sewer system. Applications must be accompanied by proof of prior backups to be eligible for the program. Upon approval of the application homeowners shall submit at least two estimates from licensed plumbers. Reimbursement will be made based on the lowest estimated cost. The City will reimburse 75% of the cost up to a maxi-

imum of \$5,625, and you as homeowner will be required to pay the balance. The vast majority of overhead sewer systems should cost less than \$7,500 making the homeowner’s 25% share of the cost less than \$1,875.

### Completing the Work

Once the plumber’s proposal is approved, the homeowner should contract with the plumber and have the installation completed. The plumber will be required to obtain all necessary permits with the City of Decatur. **No work shall be done prior to the approval of the applications.** The installation shall be inspected by the City of Decatur Plumbing Inspector when the work is completed.

### Getting Paid

When the inspector approves the installation and the homeowners submit that the contractor has been paid for the homeowners 25% portion, the City’s 75% reimbursement payment will be made by a two party check to the property owner and the plumber contractor. It may take up to three weeks for the check to be sent. The City of Decatur is not responsible of any future maintenance or replacement costs for the overhead sewer system and the homeowner has full ownership of the overhead sewer system.

