



# Township of Union

# PUBLIC WORKS

**Joseph Florio, Commissioner of Pub. Works**

Tel. 908-686-1922

DPW@Uniontownship.com

**24 Hours 908-851-5000 Emergency Only**

**Sergio P Panunzio, CPWM, CPM Superintendent.**

Peggy Gehrig, CPWM. Executive Assistant

Michael Romano, CPWM General Foreman

## ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent, report an issue, for general information, accounts payable.

## ROAD DIVISION

Street defects, snow removal, pavement issues

## GROUNDS DIVISION

Parks and field Maintenance, field concession stands issues.

## BUILDINGS DIVISION

Shipping and receiving, street signs down, graffiti, park signage, public buildings issues.

## SHADE TREE DIVISION

Tree issues, pruning, removals, planting, trimming.

## SEWER DIVISION

Sewer back-ups, odor of sewer smell, basin maintenance.

## SANITATION DIVISION

Garbage, recycling, grass, leaf appliance, hazardous material collection.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

Report illegal dumping, notices of violations. Sidewalk, driveway, storage units permits

## TRANSPORTATION

Shuttle to train schedule

## SEWER DIVISION

**Bob Calderone, Supervisor**

**Matt Calderone, Asst. Supervisor**

### Two Systems

The Township of Union has two separate sewage systems. One is for **storm water** and one is for **sanitary waste**. The **sanitary system** which carries all the water from the home, such use of toilets, sinks, showers and washing machines, is a closed system. This means that unless there is a toilet, shower, broken pipe or the cap is off the sanitary clean out, in the basement, it is impossible to get water in the basement from the sanitary system. If a blockage occurs in the sanitary main line, and one of the previously mentioned conditions exist, the water may enter the basement.

The **storm water** system collects all the rain water through the inlets located in the gutter line. These inlets are called "catch basins". The pipes in the basin bring the storm water to the outfalls located along the various rivers and creeks in town. During heavy downpours the sanitary sewer may become overloaded due to illegal sump pump connections, illegal roof drain connections and storm water flooding which allows rain water to enter through sanitary sewer manholes. This situation could cause flooding in the basement through the sanitary system, but only if one or more of the aforementioned conditions exist. To learn more click [A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Stormwater.](#)



### Back-ups

**A backup** typically occurs in a home's plumbing system or lateral and will not cause damage if you discontinue using the plumbing fixture(s) until the system is cleared. Most slow moving drains, toilets, or backups can be remedied with drain cleaners or a plunger. If the backup continues, contact the **Township of Union Department of Public Works at (908) 686 1922**. Employees of the Sewer Division will inspect the system to determine if a blockage has occurred within the Township street line. If this is the case, the line will be flushed and the blockage should abate. If the blockage is not in the street line, a plumbing service will need to be called to clear your house line.

**A backflow** is much less common and occurs when water or materials come up through a drain, toilet, or other fixture when the home's plumbing system is not being used. This may indicate that the city main is blocked and wastewater is backing up into your lateral line and home.

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**Monday Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm**

**908-686-1922**

**After hours & holidays (24Hrs) 908- 851-5000**



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**Appropriate personnel will be dispatched to investigate and remedy any problem.**

**D.P.W. personnel will advise and assist you if a backflow occurs due to an obstruction originating off the property. DUE TO INSURANCE REGULATIONS OUR PERSONNEL WILL NOT PERFORM ANY WORK INSIDE OR ON YOUR PROPERTY.**

## Sewer Back Up

**A Sewer backup can create a stressful and emotional situation for the homeowner/renter. In some cases, it may cause health and safety concerns as well as significant property loss. A proper response to a sewer backup can greatly minimize property damage and diminish the threat of illness.**

## What causes a sewer backup?

Sanitary sewer overflows can be caused by a number of factors. They usually involve sewer pipe blockages in either main sewer lines or service laterals (lines between buildings and the main line). Causes may include pipe breaks or cracks due to tree roots, system deterioration, insufficient system capacity due to residential or commercial growth, or construction mishaps. In home and office plumbing systems, the main cause is accumulation of grease, tree roots, hair, or solid materials, such as disposable diapers or sanitary napkins that are too large for wastewater pipes to handle. Such materials may cause major backups in Township's lines as well as in residents' lateral lines. A frequent cause of water stoppages within the Township's system, however, is vandalism. Leaves, sticks, rocks, bricks and trash have been found stuffed down manholes. We encourage you to report observations of any such activity.

## Lateral vs. Main

What is a sewer lateral? A sewer lateral or house lateral is the pipeline between the Township sanitary sewers main, usually located in the street, and the building. The sewer lateral is owned and maintained by the property owner including any part, which may extend into the street or public right of way. Most often, the cause of a backup in your lateral is from items that the line is not meant to handle; such as toys, underwear, towels, children diapers, paper products (other than toilet paper) keys and even false teeth. To avoid flushing these items, remember to close the toilet lid. What you flush down your toilet may not affect you, but it might cause problems for your neighbors! Another possible cause would be roots in your lateral. The lateral is the responsibility of the owner of the property from the house to the street.

## Trunk Line

A sewer Trunk Line is the pipeline between the Township sanitary sewer main, and the line that brings sewerage to the plant. The trunk line is owned and maintained by the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union County, including any part, which may extend into the street or public right of way.





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**If you reside near a trunk line, the cause of a backup in the township's line is caused by a high flow of sewage during heavy rains.**

## **TRUNK LINE BACKUP**

Whenever a "Trunk Line" is running to capacity (full) the township's sewer lines have nowhere to bring the sewage to and therefore backup. More often, this event causes sewage to back up into the basement, through toilets, slop sinks and drains. The Department of Public Works Sewer Division is limited as to what it can do to alleviate the problem. Once the Trunk Lines start running again, the sewage in your basement will begin to recede.

**How could a sewer backup affect me?** If the backup occurs in a Township maintained line, the wastewater will normally overflow out of the lowest possible opening. In some homes—especially those with basements, or where the lowest level is even with the sewer lines—the overflowing wastewater may exit through the home's lower drains and toilets.

## **Don't Pour Grease Down the Sink**

Instead, you should cool it, contain it and throw it in the trash. Can it. Bag it. Toss it. Don't Clog it. Running hot water to melt fats, oil, and grease doesn't help! No amount of hot water keeps grease from eventually congealing. This only gets the grease through the pipes in your home. Once it gets into the sewer and cools, it sticks to the pipe walls and creates an expensive and messy problem of sewer backups for you, your neighbors, and creeks and rivers in your neighborhood.

## **Report an Overflow**

Report a sanitary sewer overflow by calling our dispatch at 908-686-1922.

## **How You Can Help Stop the Grease Blob**

- ♻️ Put used fat, oil and grease in a foiled-lined container, such as a foiled coffee bag or a used soup or vegetable can. If you generate large amounts of used cooking oil, such as used when frying turkeys, reuse or recycle it.
- ♻️ Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash cans or garbage bags.
- ♻️ Avoid using your garbage disposal.
- ♻️ Remove oil and grease from dishes, pans, fryers and griddles. Cool first before you skim, scrape or wipe off excess grease, and put it into the trash.
- ♻️ Help us help you - never pour fat, oils and grease down a drain.



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The State of New Jersey has implemented new storm water management regulations which each municipality must adhere to. The following ordinances were adopted by the township to be in compliance with the regulations.

THESE ARE A SYNOPSIS OF THE ORDINANCES- UPDATES AND CURRENT ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE THOROUGH THE CLERK'S WEBPAGE UNDER THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION OR BY CONTACTING THE TOWNSHIP'S CLERK



**STORM WATER REGULATIONS**



### CHAPTER 551. ANIMALS

### CHAPTER 560. DISEASES, CONTROL OF SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE

#### § 551-55. Pet waste.

- *Requirement for Disposal*

All pet owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned for that purpose.

- *Exemptions*

Any owner or keeper who requires the use of a disability assistance animal shall be exempt from the provisions of this section while such animal is being used for that purpose.

- *Enforcement*

This ordinance shall be enforced by the DPW Code Enforcement, Board of Health, and Police Department of the Township of Union.

- *Enforcement and Penalty*

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

### CHAPTER 358. LITTERING

- *Prohibited Acts and Regulated Activities*

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drop, discard, or otherwise place any litter of any nature upon public or private property other than in a litter receptacle, or having done so, to allow such litter to remain. Whenever litter is thrown or discarded or allowed to fall from a vehicle or boat in violation of this ordinance, the operator or owner, or both, of the motor vehicle or boat shall be deemed to have violated this ordinance.

- *Enforcement*

This ordinance shall be enforced by DPW Code Enforcement, Board of Health, and Police Department of the Township of Union.

- *Penalties*

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

### § 170-182. Storage and waste disposal.

### § 462-21. Unauthorized dumping or disposal prohibited.

- *Prohibited Conduct*

The spilling, dumping, or disposal of materials other than storm water in the municipal separate storm water system operated by the Township of Union is prohibited. The spilling, dumping, or disposal of materials other than storm water in such a manner as to cause the discharge of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system is also prohibited.

- *Enforcement*

These ordinances shall be enforced by DPW Code Enforcement, Board of Health, and Police Department of the Township of Union.



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- *Penalties*

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

**Wildlife and Animal Feeding**

**§ 551-32.1. Prohibited conduct.**

**551 Art III. Wildlife and Animal Feeding**

No person shall feed, in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by the Township of Union any wildlife, excluding confined wildlife (for example, wildlife in zoos, parks, or rehabilitation centers, or unconfined wildlife at environmental education centers).

- *Enforcement*

These ordinances shall be enforced by DPW Code Enforcement, Board of Health, and Police Department of the Township of Union.

- *Violations and Penalties*

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

- *Illicit Connection Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System*

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged through an illicit connection to the municipal separate storm sewer system operated by the Township of Union any domestic sewage, non-contact cooling water, process wastewater, or other industrial waste (other than storm water).

*Enforcement*

These ordinances shall be enforced by DPW Code Enforcement, Board of Health, Engineering, Building Department and Police Department of the Township of Union

*Penalties*

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

**WASTE COLLECTION**

**§ 462-40. Prohibition of the collection of solid waste mixed with recyclable materials.**

Prohibition of the collection of solid waste mixed with recyclable ... shall be unlawful for solid waste collectors to collect solid waste that is mixed with, or ... is also unlawful for solid waste collectors to remove for ... bags or containers of solid waste which visibly display a ...

**§ 170-182. Storage and waste disposal**

Storage and waste disposal. No materials or wastes shall be deposited upon a lot in ... aquatic life. All materials or wastes which might cause fumes or dust or ... be stored or placed in the front yard area.

**§ 462-9. Receptacle specifications; placement for collection.**

**Yard Waste Collection**

Sweeping, raking, blowing, or otherwise placing yard waste that is not containerized at the curb or along the street is not allowed containers, biodegradable bags and shall not be placed closer than ten (10) feet from any storm drain inlet. Placement of yard waste at the curb or along the street or in any other manner ( Other than 170-182) is a violation of this ordinance. If such placement of waste occurs, the party responsible for placement of the yard waste must remove the yard waste from the streets or said party shall be deemed in violation of this ordinance.

**Enforcement**

These ordinances shall be enforced by DPW Code Enforcement, Board of Health, and Police Department of the Township of Union.

**Violations and Penalties**

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00.