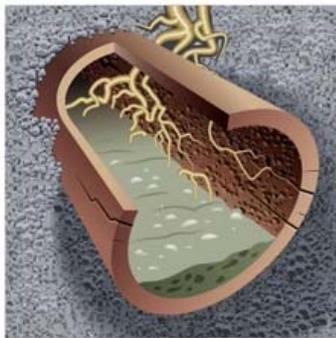




ROOT CONTROL

The continual flow of nutrient-filled water found in sewer pipes attracts plant roots. Roots growing along the pipes can exert significant pressures on pipes, and roots pushing into and around gasket connection points expand and break seals.



Root infiltration can cause a blockage to the lateral, the sewer line servicing your home, resulting in sewage backup into your home and damage to your furnishings.

Homeowners are responsible for maintaining the lateral that services their home.

TIPS FOR CONTROLLING ROOTS

The conventional method of removing roots by cutting or tearing is used to solve an immediate problem or stoppage, but this method does not retard the growth or destroy the roots outside the pipe. This is similar to pruning the bushes and shrubs surrounding your residence.

An annual chemical root control program can be an effective preventive maintenance measure.

Products containing copper sulfate or metam sodium should be avoided, as both are harmful to the environment and to the natural bacteria, which normally decomposes dead roots.

A product that foams with the addition of water is the most effective means of coating the roots and pipe surfaces.



If you still have questions, you may check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) link, or contact the Collections Supervisor at (760) 788-2262.



WHAT RMWD IS DOING TO PREVENT ROOTS FROM BLOCKING SEWER MAINS

The collection crew has an annual preventive maintenance program where they will clean main-line trouble spots and treat the sewer mains with a foaming root killer.

Unfortunately they can't stop all roots from growing and from time to time will have to excavate and replace sewer pipe.

What to Do When There's a Blockage or Backup

Residents experiencing a sewer backup may call 760-789-1330. Collection's staff is available to assist you 24 hours a day.

Residents should be aware, however, that the RMWD is responsible for the main sewer line only. The homeowner is responsible for the cleaning of the sewer service (lateral) from the house or building to the public sewer main.

If it has been determined that no blockages or restrictions exist within the District's sanitary sewer system, the homeowner is advised to contact a professional plumber or drain cleaning service to have the private sewer service inspected.