



Arapahoe County Water & Wastewater Authority
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Sewer Maintenance Program

ACWWA's service area has approximately 73 miles of sanitary sewer lines, 3,073 manholes and 3 lift stations within its sanitary sewer system. While sanitary sewer system problems are not common, ACWWA is instituting a Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Program, which is intended to avoid or minimize problems to the maximum extent possible. The first phase of cleaning will begin in mid-September 2018 and will run through the end of the year. To see a map of which areas are currently being cleaned, please click on this [link](#)

The sanitary sewer lines are cleaned using high performance sewer cleaning equipment. High velocity water is sprayed against the internal pipe walls of the sanitary sewer, systematically removing accumulated grease, debris and sediments. This process is repeated on every sewer line cleaned. A camera is then launched into the line where video is taken to inspect the integrity of the piping. Routine maintenance is also done on the lift stations to help prevent future blockages and back-ups and keep our main sewer lines flowing consistently.

What to Expect if You Live in the Cleaning Area

Sanitary sewer cleaning operations will be done by DES Pipeline Maintenance. You can expect to see their trucks out on the roads in mid-September, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ACWWA will post signs at the entrances to neighborhoods approximately one week prior to conducting sanitary sewer cleaning operations in your area.

A sanitary sewer jet-cleaning machine uses high-pressure water to clean the sanitary sewer. This high-water pressure may affect your home or office's sanitary sewer plumbing. You may experience gurgling or bubbling water in the toilet bowl or, in rare cases, splash out of the bowl. The water that could come from this type of incident is from the bowl itself, not the sewer line. The common causes of air venting into homes during sanitary sewer cleaning are: air movement from normal cleaning operations, the use of higher pressure needed when cleaning sanitary sewer lines that have a steep slope, sewer lines running close to the building, a plugged roof vent, and the size and complexity of the home's waster and ventilation system. **So, to minimize water splashing out of your toilet bowl, make it a habit to keep the lid down.** You may smell sewer gas from your basement floor drains. If this does occur, flush your toilet and pour water into your floor drains. Sanitary sewer cleaning does not damage your sewer system. The water that comes out is the water that is normally in the home's system (drain traps), not the water from the sanitary sewer in the street.

If you encounter any problems or have any questions, please contact ACWWA at 303-790-4830.