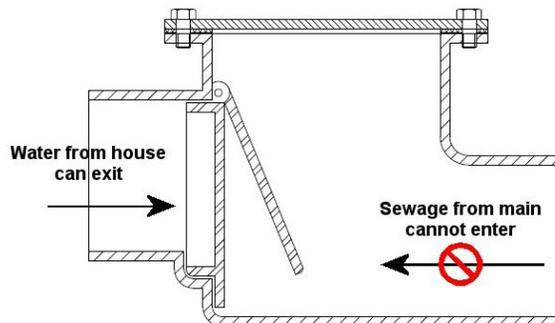


Backwater Valves



A backwater valve is a mechanical device that prevents wastewater from flowing into your house from the City's sewer main. Sewer mains can become blocked, causing wastewater to back up in the main and overflow into buildings or from manholes.

A backwater valve is a “flapper valve” that has a flat flange hinged at the top. When you use water in your house, wastewater from your household drains push the flapper open and allow wastewater to flow to the City's sewer main. But if the City's main becomes plugged causing sewage to back up, the sewage flowing toward your house pushes the flapper closed so sewage cannot enter.



Most plumbers can install backwater valves. There are different types of backwater valves for installation inside or outside the home, depending on how the house and the plumbing are arranged. Houses with basements built in Pueblo after 1978 should have had backwater valves installed. However, like all mechanical devices, backwater valves need periodic inspection and maintenance. Materials in household waste may get caught on the valve and block its operation. If a “sewer snake” has been used to clear a clogged drain line, the sewer snake could break the flapper valve or knock it off its hinge so it cannot operate. Homeowners should check their backwater valves about once a year to ensure they are in proper operating condition.