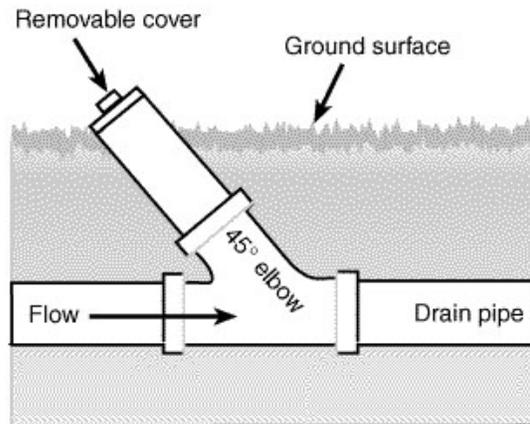


Cleanouts

A cleanout is usually a four-inch vertical pipe with a threaded cap that provides an access point to put a tool into the service line to clean it, clear obstructions, or perform inspections. Somewhere near the foundation of your home there is a cleanout. There may be more than one cleanout on your service line. Because there is usually a “Y”-shaped sweep where the cleanout connects to the service line



to provide easy access for tools and cables, two cleanouts are sometimes installed together so plumbers can easily work on the pipe in either direction. If a service line is long, there may be multiple cleanouts in different locations.

If the threaded cap is removed, wastewater from inside buildings on the property can overflow into the yard or landscaping. Sometimes it can flow off the property into the public right of way (alleys, sidewalks, streets, and roads), or onto a neighbor’s property. This creates a nuisance condition by exposing the public to wastewater. Persons coming in contact with untreated wastewater could become ill as a result of exposure to disease-causing microorganisms. Wastewater flowing across public right of way can be tracked around the neighborhood by pedestrians, pets, and cars. For these reasons, caps should be installed securely on sewer cleanouts except when maintenance is being performed.

