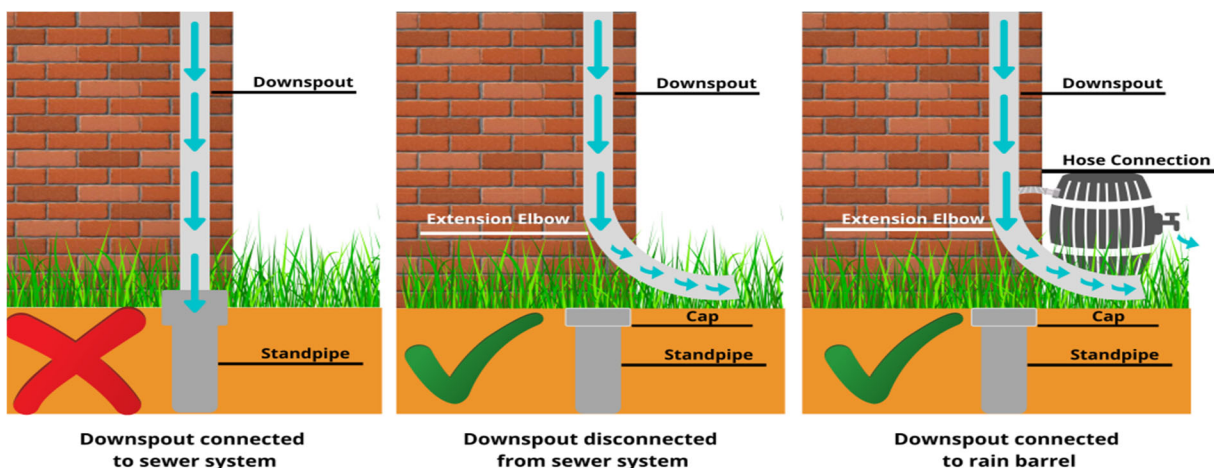


Damage to Sewer Systems from Connecting Gutters, Water Basins, and other Drainage Outlets

“Water, water everywhere!” As many of you may have noticed, we had a heavy rain season this past summer. Millers Corn lost a whole field of corn due to the downpours our area experienced. Parts of the County flooded, causing damage to residential properties and businesses.

Many of us have experienced the damage water can cause to property through the disaster of a flooded basement or a weather event that has flooded an entire home. Did you know that water infiltrating a sewer system can also cause major havoc? We think it’s important you know about this and the potential damage and costs. Following are some of the negative consequences of excessive water infiltrating a sewer system:

- Frequent pressure and flow of water can exacerbate the wear and tear on pipes, which can lead to breaks, leaks, and even collapses. (Note that grease, wipes, and other objects can clog sewer pipes, creating the same kind of backflow as excessive infiltration.)
- Serious environmental hazards can result if raw sewage backs up and overflows, releasing potential pathogens into local waterways and habitats adjacent to the sewer system.
- Excessive water that gets into the wastewater system must still be treated like sanitary waste. Heavy volumes become costly, impacting on rate payers.
- Just as a collection system can become damaged as a result of infiltration, so can a sewer plant that receives excessive water, especially over a period of time.



It is difficult to predict where overflow and blockages might appear or where a pipe might break because of long-term infiltration but knowing that these can quickly create a public health emergency means we should be stewards of the system.

In Marshall County and in the Town of Culver, inflow connections are prohibited by zoning ordinance regulations. This means that gutters, water drainage basins, and other types of drainage outlets are not allowed to be connected to municipal sewers. These municipal agencies can enforce compliance through fees and/or legal action. Most cities and towns do not allow inflow connections to sewer systems because of the damage they can create. These regulations are meant to prevent anything from a temporary blockage to a public health hazard.

If you know of an inflow connection on your property that might adversely affect the South-West Lake Maxinkuckee sewer system (a gutter or storm water basin that connects to the sewer system, for example), please do all you can to mitigate the issue. It is best for your property, neighboring properties, Lake Maxinkuckee and the surrounding environment, and the health and well-being of everyone living in the community. Thank you!

Your friends and neighbors on the South-West Lake Maxinkuckee Conservancy District Board,

John Crist, Chairman of the Board
Tom Fujimura
Rick George

Jim Purucker
Jackie Smith
John Stimson



For Sewer Emergencies, call:

574-250-8533

If no one gets back with you within 60 minutes, call:

Kent Thomas: 574-250-1271

Jason Young: 574-259-0459

**If you have any
billing issues that
you need help
resolving, please
feel free to reach
out to Ginny
Munroe at
574-252-6148.
Thanks!**