

Reducing Sewer Overflows by Controlling Infiltration and Inflow

Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) is extraneous flow that enters the sewer system through damaged and defective pipe, and improper connections. This document will further describe I/I, present ongoing efforts of the City and identify what you can do to help.

Why is I/I Control Important?

Excessive I/I can cause many problems in the sewer system. Although most sewers

are designed to carry some I/I, excessive quantities can overwhelm pipes, cause backups into private homes or in extreme cases cause overflows of untreated sewage into the environment and backups into private homes.



Sewer system overflow

Infiltration:

Groundwater that enters the sewer system through broken or defective pipes and manholes.

Inflow:

Stormwater that enters the sewer system from catch basins, roof downspouts and sump pumps.



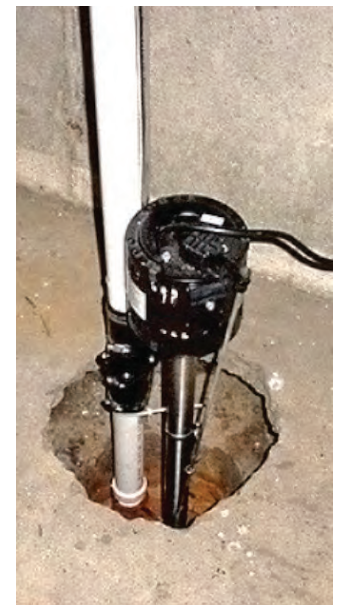
Valencia WRP

How the Sewer System Works

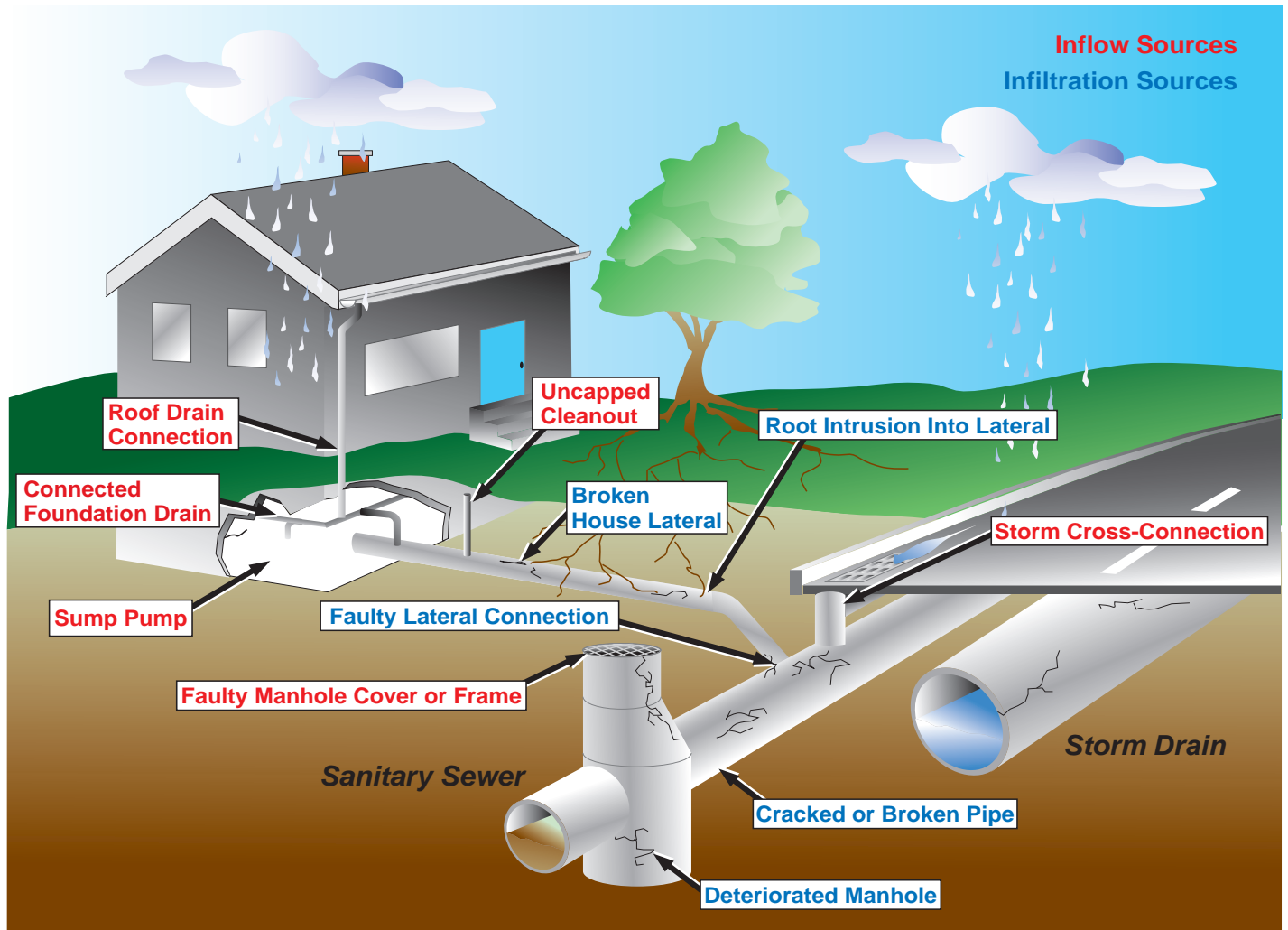
Sewage from homes and businesses enters the sewer system from building connections. Sewers and pumping stations transport the wastewater to the County Sanitation District trunk lines for conveyance to the District's water reclamation plants (WRPs).

Private Inflow Sources

Inflow from private sources such as sump pumps and downspouts has a significant impact on the sewer system. During a rain event, these sources discharge large volumes of clean water to the sewer and can quickly overwhelm the system resulting in potential overflows to the environment or backups into homes. It only takes a few sump pumps to cause major problems in the sewer system.



Sump pump



Sources of I/I in a sewer collection system

What is being done to control I/I

Locally, The City in coordination with the Los Angeles County Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District (CSMD) performs several tasks to identify and control excess I/I including:

- Ensuring prior to permit issuance that private sump pumps do not connect to the wastewater collection system
- Rehabilitate and seal sewer manholes to reduce/ prevent leaking
- Flush the collection system using a jetting process
- Video inspect the collection system after the jetting process to locate potential leaks

You can help!

- Remove sump pump and downspout discharges from the sewer system
- Report backups and overflows by calling 1-800-675-4357 to help identify sewer system problem areas.