

Avon Lake Municipal Utilities

Lateral Resource Guide

Homes still connected to combined sewers

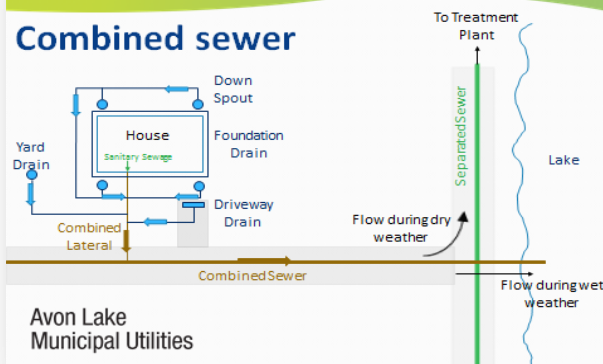
Avon Lake Municipal Utilities (ALMU) is working hard to keep Lake Erie clean, but we need your help. Here's the situation:

Currently, all water goes into the combined sewer. At times of heavy rain, the contents of the combined sewer, both wastewater and clean, discharge into Lake Erie near Avon Lake beaches.

In order to meet EPA standards, we need to separate all combined sewers. Storm water will now go through its own pipe straight to Lake Erie, instead of to our treatment plant.

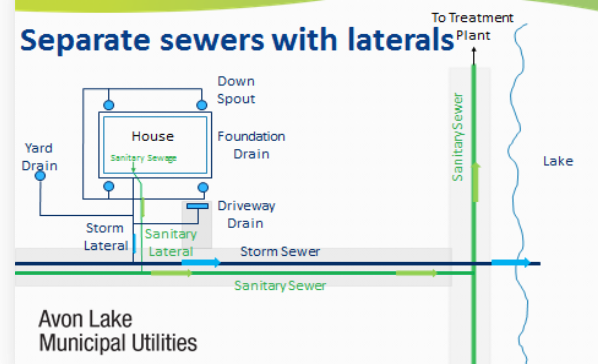
How it is now

Combined sewer



How it will be after separation

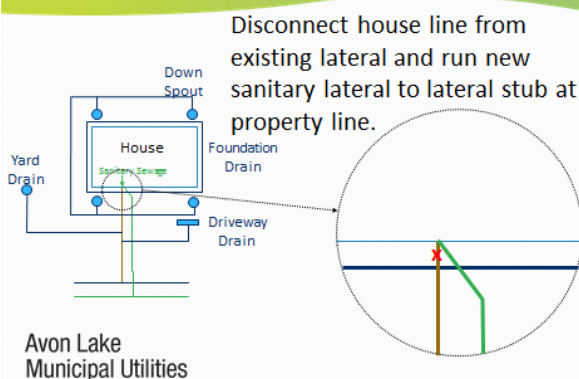
Separate sewers with laterals



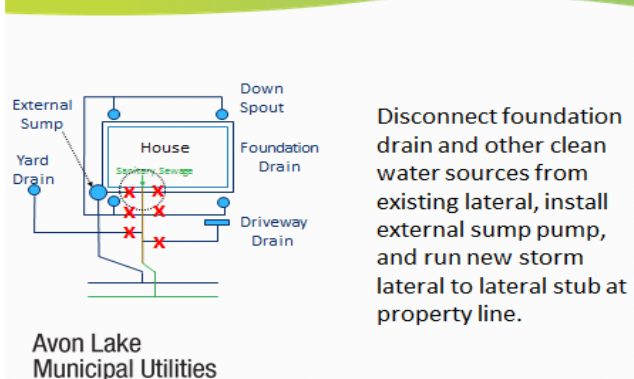
Step 1: Home Evaluation. Determine whether or not you need to build a new lateral. ALMU staff may be able to make this determination, but you might need to get a contractor involved in this step.

Step 2: Choosing a Lateral Type. The two options are (1) a gravity lateral and (2) an external sump pump with a new storm lateral. Here's a little more information on both options.

Gravity Lateral

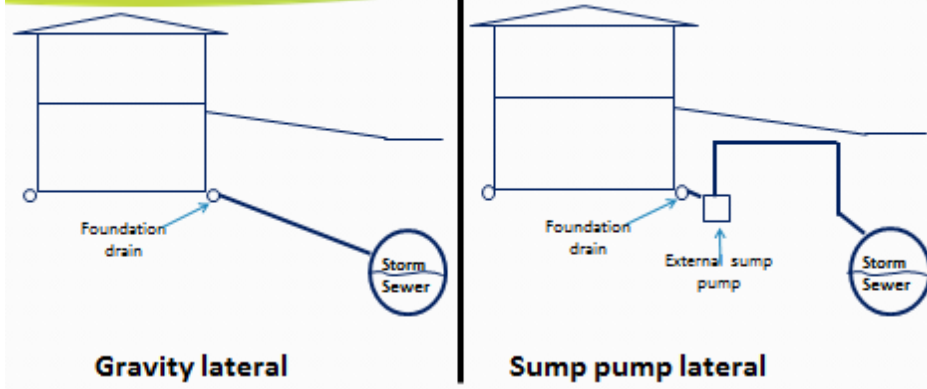


External Sump Pump and New Storm Lateral



(continued on reverse)

Lateral type pros and cons



	Gravity lateral	External sump pump lateral
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No maintenance required/slightly less expensive long term Can't fail mechanically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pump allows more design flexibility, could be easier/cheaper to dig Prevents foundation flooding during heavy rains Decisively protects your home from storm sewer surcharges
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deeper/longer trench required (could mean more \$ upfront) Does not protect you from storm sewer surcharges. Heavy rains could mean foundation flooding (just around foundation of home); leaky basement walls put you at risk of basement water entry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pump could fail from mechanical break or electrical outage (but backup pumps could mitigate problem). In case of failure, resulting foundation drain backup will likely only enter basement if walls are leaky. Even then, what comes in would be clean, and would include water from your foundation drain alone.

Once you decide which option is best for you, you are ready to proceed.

Step 3: Choosing a contractor. Contact your neighbors to join together as a buying group, then identify a contractor who will give your group a good deal. Starting in late March, check our sewer separation program page on avonlakewater.org or call our offices at (440) 933-6226 for a list of ALMU-briefed contractors.

Step 4: Scheduling the job. The sooner everyone's laterals are connected, the better. We will try and remove storm drain restrictors early if all homes connect early. If your new lateral is ready by the time the new sanitary sewer line is complete, we will connect it for you at no charge.

Things you need to know

- Free grant money is available from Lorain County Community Development for lower-income households, but the offer expires in 2013. Call us at (440) 933-6226 for more information, or download the application from our website, avonlakewater.org.
- Your contractor will need permits from us and possibly The City of Avon Lake (if it impacts your storm water drainage), but **all permits will be free of charge**.
- Wastewater laterals must be connected to the new sanitary sewer by 2/1/18 or one year after your sewer separation is complete (whichever is later. See table on last page for more details).
- All homeowners not receiving grant money will begin receiving \$1,000 in sewer bill rebates once they have two laterals, each connected to the appropriate sewer.

FAQs

Why am I being singled out on this lateral thing?

You're not. After the Clean Water Act was passed, everyone who built their homes (after 1972) paid for two laterals in the purchase price of their house. Plus, they also had to pay for their portion of the separate sewers installed in their new neighborhood as well, which you do not.

Is our neighborhood the only one affected?

No. Approximately 2,400 Avon Lake homes are going through this as well. Plus, millions of people around the country (including those in Cuyahoga County) are enduring similar projects to reduce the amount of wastewater their communities are discharging into fresh water sources. (See Sewer Separation Neighborhoods table on next page.)

Why is this happening now?

ALMU (along with water utilities across the country) is working to meet a hard deadline by the Environmental Protection Agency.

What are some other ways I'll be impacted by the project?

It is possible your sidewalk or driveway apron will be torn up during mainline sewer construction. That will be repaired at no cost to you once the sewer separation and storm sewer work is complete. (However, any damage caused during the construction of your new lateral will be up to you to fix.) Traffic in your neighborhood will be zoned for local traffic only, and most every road will be drivable (to local traffic) during construction.

Will anything need to be done inside my house?

Only if you and your contractor determine that is the best solution to your home's second lateral issue.

Will any permits be required?

Yes, but all permit fees will be waived. If you are hiring a contractor for the job, they will take care of getting permits, and with every permit request, we will be out to inspect and approve the work. If you are doing the job yourself, just call us at 440-933-6226 for permitting process information.

I can't afford this!

For qualified (lower income) homeowners, free grant money is available through Lorain County Community Development. The application is on our website on the Belmar project site. If you have trouble reading, getting around or don't have Internet access, Avon/Avon Lake CRS is partnering with us to help you complete and file your application. Other ways we are helping: (1) A \$1,000 sewer bill rebate after you connect your new lateral to the new sanitary lateral and (2) Giving you five years' notice to complete your lateral project.

Why can't I get my \$1,000 in one lump sum?

As your water company, we are extending you compensation for the benefit we receive from the lateral you've built and connected. We see this benefit over time, not all at once. Your individual lateral will save us approximately \$25/quarter in delayed capital improvements/debt service, electricity costs and equipment maintenance.

Have more questions? Come talk to our Chief Utilities Executive at one of Avon Lake's **upcoming ward meetings**. (You can go to any one, and the presentation is the same each time.)

Ward	Meeting details	Ward	Meeting details
3	March 6, 7 p.m., Troy Intermediate School	4	March 13, 7 p.m., Troy Intermediate School

(more on reverse)

Sewer separation neighborhoods

Neighborhood "name"	Streets included	Estimated start date	Estimated completion date	Estimated lateral connection deadline
Belmar	Belmar, Ashwood, Mooreland, Artsdale, Redwood, Electric	Spring 2013	Summer 2014	2/1/2018
Moorewood	Moorewood, Crestwood, Vinewood, Parkwood, Beachwood, Rosewood	2014	2015/2016	2/1/2018
Avondale	Avondale	TBD	2017	2/1/2018
Fairfield/Berkshire (aka Brookfield/Inwood)	Fairfield, Berkshire, Inwood, Brookfield, Rosewood, Electric	TBD	2018	2/1/2019
The 45s	Lakewood, Oakwood, Forest, South Point, Tomahawk, Clifton, Overlook	TBD	2019	6/30/2019

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