

CITY OF BELVIDERE

BACKUP CONTROL MEASURES

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

PURPOSE: The City of Belvidere provides a sanitary sewer system that is capable to convey and treat sewage from all of its residents. The sanitary sewer system handles all normal flow conditions without risk to homes and private property. However, the sanitary sewer mains can overload from time to time and cause the backup of sewage into basements at various locations within the City. The purpose of this policy is to define the general guidelines and procedures to be followed for the approval and implementation of backup control measures to alleviate recurring sewer backups. This policy is limited to the cost of plumbing improvements as a preventative measure and does NOT include payment for damages that might have occurred with a sanitary sewer backup. Any requests for reimbursement of property damages shall be reviewed on a case by case basis as claims are filed with the City's insurance carrier.

This policy only applies to properties and conditions that result when the sanitary sewer main fills and backs up into a home or building. This policy and the sharing of costs for preventative measures does not apply to other drainage and/or flooding problems that a property owner may experience. These excluded problems include, but are not limited to, failure of a sump pump, groundwater seepage or flow into a basement, surface water runoff flow into a basement, or problems with the plumbing system of a home or building.

ELIGIBILITY: The City of Belvidere will share in the cost of making improvements to private property for control measures to reduce future problems of sanitary sewer backups only for properties that have experienced these problems on one or more occasions and have reported those conditions and problems previously to the Public Works Department.

TYPICAL CONTROL MEASURES: The existing conditions at each location will vary, and, as a result, the type of backup control measures to be provided will vary from location to location. Conditions such as depth of the sewer main, depth of the sewer service, elevation of the lowest floor of the building, type of use of the lowest floor of the building, number and type of plumbing fixtures in the lowest level of the building and age and condition of the existing building plumbing may impact the choice of the backup control measures that may be installed at each location. Following is a list of typical measures that a property owner should consider:

Installation of floor drain plugs or standpipes.
Installation of a manual check valve on the building sewer service.
Installation of an automatic check valve on the building sewer service.
Elimination of plumbing drains in the lower level.
Conversion of building drains to overhead sewers and installation of an ejector pump.

CHANGES TO BE EXCLUDED: The City will not share in the cost of any changes to the building plumbing that are due to or include:

Improvements to a building sewer that are part of normal maintenance.
Any connections of the building roof drains to the sanitary sewer service.
Any connections of the building footing drains to the sanitary sewer service.
Any connection of the building sump pump to the sanitary sewer service (which violates city code).
Installation of a sump pump to control groundwater.

OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE: Any improvements completed under this policy shall be a part of the building plumbing. The property owner shall be solely responsible for all future maintenance, repair, cleaning, and replacement of these items.

PRIOR WRITTEN CONFIRMATION: The City will provide sharing of costs for the installation of certain backup control measures only when such cost sharing has been approved in writing by the City of Belvidere prior to any costs being incurred. ***THE CITY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHARING OF COSTS FOR CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY ANY PROPERTY OWNER WHEN PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL WAS NOT OBTAINED FROM THE CITY.*** The City reserves the right to reject any request that does not comply with this policy or which proposes a backup control measure which in the City's opinion is inappropriate or ineffective.

COMPLETION OF CONTROL MEASURES: The property owner is required to obtain a written quote for the proposed improvements to be submitted for the City's approval. Once the City has issued the written confirmation and approval for the cost sharing, the property owner may then have the work completed. The property owner shall hire a qualified plumber, licensed to work in the State of Illinois, to complete the improvements. The property owner is responsible for making all payments to the contractor and shall be responsible to coordinate, plan and schedule the improvements.

LIMITATION OF COSTS: When the other general conditions of this policy have been met, the City shall reimburse a portion of the cost of installing a City approved backup control measure as set out below:

The maximum reimbursement of costs to be paid by the City to the property owner is limited to the lesser of fifty percent (50%) of the actual cost to complete the authorized improvement or \$2,500.00.

Once the work has been completed, and the completed work has been inspected and approved by the City's Plumbing Inspector, the property owner must submit a copy of the final paid invoice within a maximum of six (6) weeks of the date of the approval of the City's Plumbing Inspector.

Failure to comply with any part of this policy, including, but not limited to, timely Submission of paid invoices may result in denial of reimbursement.