

**What should
I do?**

**Who should
I call?**

**Call the Department
of Public Works**

**During regular office
hours 586-445-5363**

**After hours - PD
dispatch 586-777-6700**

The City will investigate the problem as soon as practicable. If you believe the problem is the result of a defect in your internal plumbing, or the private lead line that runs from your house to the street, you should call a plumber.

NOTE: Property owners are responsible for the line that goes from the house to the City sewer line.

How to Get Your Claim Form

Notice of Claim forms can be obtained by contacting the Finance Director at 586-447-3322. Your written notice must contain your name, address, phone number, address of the affected property, the date of discovery of any property damage or physical injury, and a brief description of your claim. Your failure to provide written notice within 45 days after the date of the damage or physical injury was discovered could eliminate your right to compensation under Public Act 222.

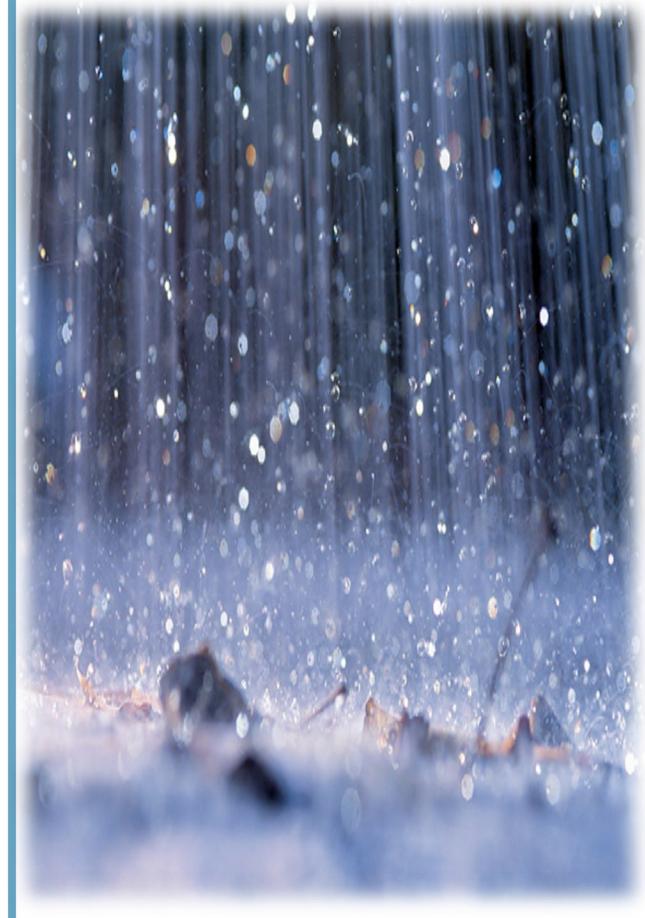


This pamphlet was prepared by

**City of St. Clair Shores
&
Southeast Macomb
Sanitary District**



What You Should Know About
**Basement
Flooding**
and
Public Act 222



Q What if the backup into my basement or utility room was caused by a problem with the City sewer line?

A Under Michigan Public Act 222, which went into effect January 1, 2002, property owners can file a claim for damages to their property or to their health. Act 222 is the sole form of relief for such damages.

Q We have a large tree in front of our house on City property. What if the roots are getting in our sewer line causing or contributing to flooding?

A The City is responsible for keeping the main line open, but the homeowner is responsible for the drain line from the house to the City line in front. More often than not, tree roots that find their way into a cracked or disconnected line are the cause of backups. You should contact a reputable drain cleaning/repair company.

Here's What You Need To Do

- **File a written claim within 45 days of the incident. If you don't file within this time frame, you will not be eligible for recovery of damages.**
- **Submit your claim to the City. Staff will give you the necessary forms to complete under Act 222 when Public Works employees come to check on your problem. Make sure you document any damages with photos and/or video. Gather as much documentation as possible showing when you purchased an item that has been damaged, and how much you paid for it. Personal property items will be evaluated on actual cash value, not replacement value.**
- **Contact your homeowners insurance and/or your landlord.**
- **The City, or another governmental unit or agency (such as the**



Southeast Macomb Sanitary District, for example, if the sewer line is not under the City's jurisdiction) has the right to inspect your property or investigate any personal injury after receiving your written claim. If you are filing a claim, you will need to show that the sewer line (under whichever unit of government's jurisdiction) was defective and that the defect was not corrected in a reasonable time. Claims will be reviewed by an adjuster based on the requirements of the State law.

Q What if I experience property damage or physical injury as the result of water or sewage backing up into my house?

A If you believe you have suffered personal property damage or physical injury as a result of a sewer back-up, you must notify the City in writing within 45 days of the incident by submitting a written Notice of Claim form to: Finance Director, 27600 Jefferson Circle Dr. St. Clair Shores, MI 48081.

Q What do I do about cleanup?

A You should use laundry bleach (8 tablespoons per gallon of water) to disinfect the area and any materials touched by the backup. Detailed instructions are available in the St. Clair Shores "Helping Hands" newsletter that you will receive when our Public Works employees come to evaluate the damage.