



Thinking About Repairing or Replacing Your Sewer?

Union Sanitary District has some tips for you!

Union Sanitary District provides collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater for Fremont, Newark and Union City. We know that repair or replacement of your sanitary sewer lateral can be a large investment that deserves careful consideration. Here are some tips about different types of sewer repair and replacement, working with contractors, and obtaining permits for you to keep as a reference.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at (510) 477-7500. We're happy to answer any questions that you may have about any step of the repair or replacement process.

Getting Started...

Be aware that having an old sewer line does not automatically mean that it needs repair or replacement!

You may have a plumber televise your sewer to verify its condition. This typically costs approximately \$200 - \$300 dollars. USD is available to review the video and answer your questions at no charge.

Permit Information and Homeowner Responsibility

You are responsible for your lateral from your building to where it connects to the sewer main in the street.

A permit is required from USD prior to any work on your sewer line.

Replacement of your entire lateral will require your contractor to obtain an encroachment permit from your city for work in the street in addition to USD's permit.

Pipe-bursting

This is a popular method for rehabilitating sewer laterals in USD's service area. A bursting tool with new plastic sewer pipe attached is pulled through the existing sewer pipe. This system is much less intrusive than the old method of digging an open trench along the entire lateral.

This method requires a three foot by three foot excavation at both ends of the replacement. The cost of pipe bursting currently ranges between \$4,000 and \$6,000, depending on factors such as the length of the sewer lateral, depth, groundwater, location on the property, and the extent of surface restoration required.

See reverse for more information.



Pipebursting: new plastic sewer pipe is pulled through the old sewer line, allowing replacement without digging an open trench across the street to the hook-up with USD's main line



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Protecting Our Communities and San Francisco Bay

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Working with Contractors

Homeowners should be as informed as possible about all aspects of work to be done in order to best evaluate contractor recommendations. USD highly encourages homeowners to contact us before hiring a contractor/plumber.

Obtaining bids from more than one contractor is to your advantage, as bid amounts can vary from \$4,000 to \$15,000 for the same project, the same materials and the same workmanship.

USD's inspectors apply the same rigorous standards to all projects. Whether you pay \$4,000 or \$15,000 for the work, USD will thoroughly inspect the project to ensure its quality before approving it.

Read Your Contract Carefully!

Be sure the contract clearly states the services that will be provided, and also states that a USD permit will be obtained. Items such as cleanout boxes and overflow devices should be included, as well as site cleanup.

Look for an outline of payment terms. You should always be able to retain a percentage of the total payment until the job is complete and you have received a copy of USD's acceptance letter.

You should require your contractor to pay USD's \$500 Permit Holder Deposit, which will be refunded to him or her after the job has passed our final inspection.

Open Trench Repair or Replacement

The entire sewer line is excavated from where it leaves the house (the "kickout") to where the lateral hooks up to USD's main sewer line in the street. If the sewer line runs underneath landscaping, a driveway or pavers, those must also be removed to dig down to the line.

The new sewer line requires a bed of at least six inches of crushed rock for support. USD inspectors observe as the line is pressure-tested for leaks with water or air. If the line passes the test, water is drained or air is released and six inches of gravel is placed on top of the pipe. The pipe should then be completely covered with earth and compacted. Concrete and landscaping is replaced where possible, and the street must be repaved according to your city's specifications.



2.

Photos of Open-Trench replacement of a lateral:
(1) Connection of the lateral to USD's main in the street; (2) Gravel dumped for bedding the pipe; (3) A properly bedded lateral – view from street to curb;



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(4) Lateral showing cleanout and concrete cleanout box; (5) View of lateral from house to trench in street.



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For more information, see our website at www.unionsanitary.com. Click on the Homeowner Information bar to find out about sewer repairs, sewer safety and homeowner do's and don'ts.