

Help keep water quality from going *down the drain*.

PIPER'S TIPS FOR REDUCING SEWER OVERFLOWS

Rain getting into an uncapped sewer cleanout here. A downspout connected to the sanitary sewer there. Groundwater seeping into a cracked sanitary sewer pipe...

When this extra water gets into the Roanoke area's 900 miles of sanitary sewer pipes, it's amazing how the water can add up. With heavy rains, extra water can overwhelm the sanitary sewer system and cause property damage and pose environmental and health risks.

The good news is you can help! Piper, the "Otter" Authority shares a few tips below. It doesn't take much for each of us to protect our homes, community and waterways from sewer overflows.

- Disconnect downspouts that are connected to the sanitary sewer system and seal the boots. Use splashblocks or a gutter extension to direct water away from the foundation. You may also direct water into a rain barrel and put it to other uses.



- Disconnect sump pumps if they are pumping groundwater into the sanitary sewer system and direct the water outside of your property.
- Cap sewer cleanouts in your yard to prevent rain from entering the sanitary sewer system.
- Plug basement sewer floor drains if your home does not have basement plumbing fixtures. Plugs may be found at local hardware stores.
- Add a "backup of sewer and drain" rider to your homeowner's insurance policy to help cover the cost of damages if they should occur.
- Enlist the services of a professional. Plumbers can perform periodic sewer maintenance. Performing routine tree root maintenance to help prevent roots from growing into and blocking sewer pipes can also help avoid potential problems.
- NEVER pour Fats, Oils or Grease (FOG) down your drain. FOG cools and hardens, blocking water flow in the sewer system. Instead, pour FOG into a can. When full, throw it in the trash.



The More You Know, The Better The Flow.

Please visit our Web site for more helpful information! www.westernvawater.org

