

# Sewer cleaning and inspection program

## **Reason for cleaning and inspecting the sewers.**

The cleaning and inspection program keeps the sewer system operating efficiently by:

- helping prevent blockages and backups
- removing built-up debris, such as tree roots, grease, grit and sand
- determining the condition of the sewer so we can repair or replace sewers as necessary

## **How sewers are cleaned.**

We use a high-pressure nozzle to flush water down the sewer. The dirt and debris are sucked up through a manhole by a large vacuum truck and taken to the landfill.

## **How sewer are inspected.**

We insert a remotely operated video camera into the sewer to record its condition. From the video we can tell if we need to repair or replace the sewer.

## **Estimate time of Cleaning/inspecting.**

It usually takes about one day to clean the sewer on each block. However, some sewers can take longer, depending on their size and condition.

## **Items completed by the homeowner before sewer cleaning will begin on your street.**

Occasionally during cleaning and inspection, air pressure in the sewer can cause water to splash out through toilets, sinks and drains. Take the following precautions to prevent water damage in your home:

- Close the lids on all toilet bowls when not in use.
- Insert drain plugs in all sinks and bathtubs when not in use.
- Remove all floor mats in bathrooms.
- Place an old towel around the base of toilets.
- Wrap the cover of your basement floor drains with thick plastic, and place something heavy over it.

If you are running a faucet in your house to keep the lines from freezing, run water from a tap at the highest elevation in the house (i.e. main floor or upper level, not basement) without inserting the drain plug.

## **What to expect after the sewers are cleaned/inspected.**

Sometimes the sewer cleaning and inspection leaves an odor in the home. If so, run some water down the sink and bathtub drains, flush the toilets, pour a pail of water into each basement floor drain, and open the windows. After a short time, the odor should disappear.

## **Use of facilities while sewers are cleaned/inspected.**

Be careful as air pressure in the sewer during the cleaning and inspection can sometimes cause water to splash out through toilets, sinks and drains. Remember to close the lids on all toilet bowls when not in use, and insert drain plugs in all sinks and bathtubs when not in use.