

# THE VILLAGE OF MONTROSE

**POLICY TITLE:** SEWER BLOCKAGE POLICY

**POLICY #5340**

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of Council to establish guidelines for Village involvement in private sewer lateral maintenance in the event of a lateral blockage or back-up.

**POLICY BACKGROUND:**

Previously, in the event of a call to a sewer problem Public Works staff have entered residences to attempt to unblock sanitary laterals. This is no longer desirable as this can lead to unjustified costs to the Village and to possible liability issues related to possible accusations of damage, theft etc. in the private residence.

**POLICY GOAL:**

It is the goal of this policy to establish guidelines relating to sewer blockages which will save the Village unnecessary call-out costs, and reduce the risk to the Village for insurance claims.

**POLICY OBJECTIVES:**

1. The owner of a property served by a public sewer shall be responsible for the cost of servicing, clearing, rodding, removing blockages or tree roots, or maintaining in any way the sewer line on their property.
2. It is the responsibility of the Village to clear blockages from the lot line to the sanitary sewer main.

**POLICY PROCEDURE:**

1. In the event of a blockage, Owners shall first ensure that it is not in their system (as described in Policy Objective '1' above) by having a plumbing or drain cleaning firm rod and clean the piping from their building to the main line.
2. If the blockage is found to be beyond the lot line then the owner or pipe cleaning firm shall contact the Village of Montrose Works Department. NO WORK SHALL BE CARRIED OUT ON THE MUNICIPAL SYSTEM BEYOND THE LOT LINE BY THE OWNER OR THE PIPE CLEANING COMPANY.
3. Municipal staff will attend the site if the blockage is found to be in the Municipal system past the owner's lot line and then the municipal crews will clear the blockage at the Village's expense.
4. The owner is responsible for paying any contractor for all works completed on their property.
5. The Municipality is not liable for damages resulting from the malfunction of sewer and drain systems. Owners should contact their own insurance company in this regard.

Initially approved at meeting 28-11, August 15, 2011

Reviewed and amended at meeting #20-22 on June 6, 2022

Reviewed and confirmed unchanged at meeting #19-25 on June 2, 2025  
Next scheduled to be reviewed on June 1, 2026

