

**MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD**  
**Removal of Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) from the Sanitary Sewer System**

**General Information**

The Sanitary Sewer System was designed and installed to collect and transport the sewage flows generated by Bedford Borough and Township customers. The System was not sized, nor will it accommodate, an excessive amount of extraneous clear water. Such extraneous clear water is commonly referred to as infiltration and inflow, or I&I.

The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Bedford (MABB) regulations and municipal ordinances prohibit any person to permit, allow or cause to enter into the public sanitary sewer system any stormwater or surface water.

Please read the information below for we feel that it will address some of the additional questions and/or concerns that you may have in regard to the Sewer Testing Regulations.

***Why are these regulations being enforced now?***

In order to eliminate periodic discharges of wastewater to the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has entered into a Consent Order Agreement with MABB that requires the elimination of a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) by December 31, 2022. One of the requirements of the plan is to reduce the overloading of the sanitary sewer system by removing groundwater and stormwater from the sewer lines.

***What's the problem if drains or downspouts are connected to the sanitary sewer?***

Sanitary sewers are designed to accept a rather constant flow of sewage from household water. The sudden, rapid flow of rainwater from roofs, patios, driveways, etc., can overload the sanitary sewer causing them to overflow, or surcharge. Surcharges can lift manhole lids allowing sewage to overflow into streets and yards. Surcharges can also activate the CSO which discharges sewage directly into the river. Surcharges also cause sewage to back-up into basement floor drains and fixtures.

***What regulations are violated by connecting rain downspouts to a sanitary sewer?***

To prevent the overloading of sanitary sewers, the connection of stormwater to sanitary sewers is not permitted. Regulators enforcing this matter are:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Borough of Bedford Ordinances  
MABB Rules & Regulations

***Who do these regulations apply to?***

All customers on the MABB system.

***What must property owners do to comply with these regulations?***

ALL extraneous sources of stormwater must be disconnected from the public sanitary sewer system. Cracked or broken service pipes, foundation drains, driveway or area drains, downspouts, leaking joints, sump pump discharges, footer drains, entrance drains, wall or floor seepage are all examples of illegal sources of stormwater.

***How does the MABB determine that I have an illegal connection?***

The MABB conducts a variety of tests at every property on the sewer system which may include dye tests, smoke tests and air tests.

***What is a dye test?***

Dye testing involves placing a non-staining water-soluble dye tablet in the drain or downspout of your property and flushing it with water. The area is then examined for the appearance of traces of dyed water.

***What is a smoke test?***

Smoke testing involves forcing a non-toxic, non-staining smoke through the sewer system by the use of air blowers. The area is then examined for smoke leaking from the system, which indicates a leak that would allow water to enter the system.

***What is an air test?***

Air testing involves sealing the sewer system and then forcing air under pressure into the system. If the system is not able to remain pressurized on its own, a leak exists that would allow water to enter the system.

***If I am notified that I have an improper connection, what do I need to do about it?***

The MABB recommends consulting a plumber or general contractor with underground utility experience to help determine the best corrective action plan. DO NOT ignore the notice. The problem will not go away on its own. The penalties for non-compliance are severe.

***What am I supposed to do with my stormwater?***

All stormwater is supposed to be retained on the property. Downspouts should dump onto a splash pad allowing the rain water to disperse across the ground. Stormwater pipes are not permitted to discharge through curbs. You are not permitted to intentionally discharge stormwater onto a neighbor's property.

***Will I have to dig up my floors to make repairs?***

This testing requirement does NOT, in most cases, apply to any under-slab plumbing. Repair of under-slab plumbing is only required when conditions are monitored in a viewport or some other condition indicates that water is infiltrating the plumbing under the slab.

***Who is responsible for the repairs?***

The responsibility of the costs of any required repair work that may be necessary in order to be fully compliant with these regulations falls solely on the property owner.

***How much will it cost to make repairs?***

The cost to correct I&I violations is case specific. The removal of downspouts can be relatively inexpensive. Replacement of an entire service lateral can be expensive, especially if it is under a wall or driveway. You should contact a plumber or excavating contractor for a price quote.

**For more information about compliance with sewer system regulations, please contact:**

**Municipal Authority of the Borough of Bedford**  
**(P): 814.623.8192 | (F): 814.623.3315 | (W): [www.bedboro.com](http://www.bedboro.com)**