METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT OF GREATER CINCINNATI

YOUR PRIVATE BUILDING SEWER EXPLAINED

Overview

Private building sewers are the underground sewer pipes that connect your home or business to the MSD public sewer system.

Wastewater from sinks, toilets, showers, and other drains flows away from your home through your private building sewer and into the public sewer. The public sewer system transports the wastewater to a treatment plant, where it is cleaned and then released into a local river or stream.

Ownership

If you own a building, you own a building sewer. Private building sewers extend from the building to the point of connection with the MSD public sewer.

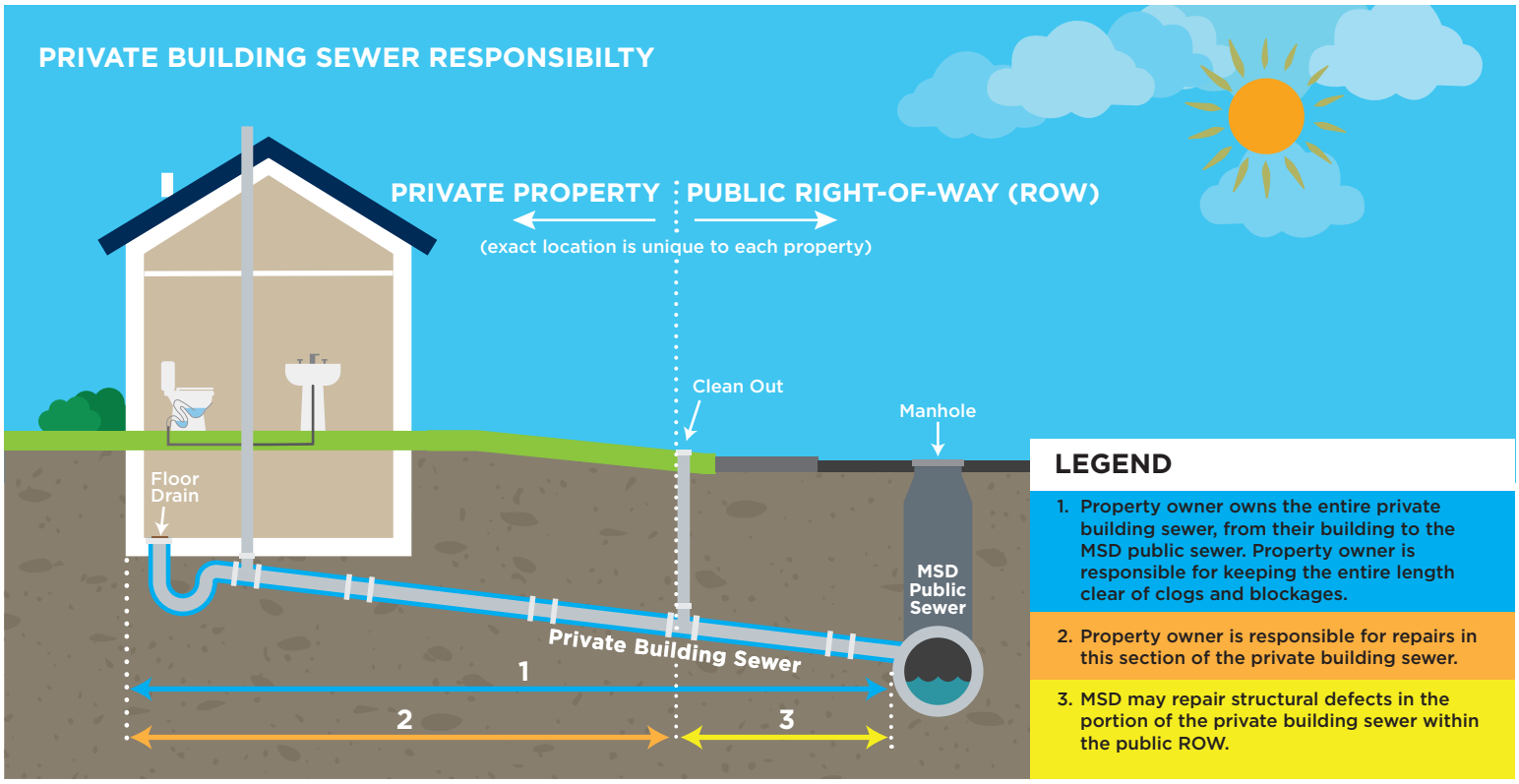
Responsibility

Property owners are responsible for:

- Keeping the entire length of the private building sewer clear of clogs and blockages, including the portions under the publicly owned sidewalks and streets.
- Maintaining and repairing broken or collapsed portions that are located on your private property.
- In some instances, MSD may undertake the repair of the portion of a broken or collapsed private building sewer that is is located within the public right-of-way (ROW) or public easement.

What Causes Clogs, Blockages and Breaks

Clogs, blockages, and breaks in private building sewers are typically caused by materials that don't dissolve in water, such as:

- Cooking fats, grease, and oil
- Wet wipes, diapers, hygiene products, etc.
- Tree roots that grow into the pipe

Other causes include deterioration due to age and external stresses such as ground shifting/settlement.