

April 1st, 2013

Village of North Baltimore
Sewer Lateral Installation FAQs

Village Utility customers affected by the North-side combined sewer separation project will be required to replace the existing sanitary sewer lateral on their property with new material from the building/home to the public right-of-way, and connect to the new sanitary sewer when they are notified by the Village. All sources of storm and "clear" water (downspouts, sump pumps, foundation drains) must be disconnected from the sanitary system immediately.

The following are answers to some frequently asked questions. For more details, please contact the North Baltimore Village Offices, 419 257 2394.

Q. When will I be required to connect to the new sewer system?

A. The Village will send or deliver written notice to utility customers when they may to connect to the new sewer system in their area. Customers will have a minimum of 30 days following notification to comply. Each situation will be different, and the customer will be informed of their deadline for completing the installation of the new sewer lateral.

Q. What if I currently have a septic system?

A. If you have a septic system, and you are in an area served by the new sanitary sewer system, you will be required to connect to the sanitary sewer when notified. Also, you will be required to properly abandon the septic system and have it inspected by the Village of North Baltimore. A Household Sewage Treatment System Abandonment Application is available from the Village, along with instructions on the steps necessary for abandonment.

Q. Why do I have to replace my existing sewer lateral if it is in good condition?

A. Although your sewer lateral may be in good condition, the EPA requires that sewer laterals connected to the new sanitary system meet current specifications and standards for installation in order to limit infiltration and exfiltration.

If your home is newer construction, or you recently replaced your sewer lateral, it may meet the current specifications. The Village or its engineer must inspect and approve any newer sewer lateral construction before it can be accepted as meeting the requirements for permanent connection to the new sanitary system. Material and installation specifications are available from the Village.

Q. Can I perform the sewer installation myself or hire a contractor to do the work?

A. No. The work must be performed by a plumber or drain layer licensed with the Village of North Baltimore. A list of the registered plumbers/drain layers is available at the Village offices and will be posted to the Village website.

Q. What happens if I don't replace my sewer lateral according to the specifications and the notice?

A. In this case the Village has the legal authority to complete the required work and assess the costs to the property owner through the Wood County property tax collections.

Q. Can I choose to have the cost of the sewer lateral installation assessed to my property taxes?

A. Yes. If you are interested in this option you must complete an election form and submit it to the Village offices on or before June 1st. Then a contract will be sent closer to when the work will be performed. The cost of plumbing/sewer work that may be required inside the home/building cannot be included in the property tax assessment.

Q. Do I have to notify the Village when I am ready to make my connection?

A. Yes. Each customer must complete an application with the Village for connection/re-connection to the sewer system and pay an application fee of \$5.00. Applications are available at the Village offices. Your contractor must notify the Village at least 24 hours prior to beginning the installation/connection. The Village needs this information so we can schedule inspections for each property and connection.

Q. Are there any other fees?

A. The Village has agreed to waive all standard fees for initial connection/re-connection and inspection of the sewer laterals and septic systems associated with this project. If the Village is required to make multiple inspections on the same property, the standard inspection fee of \$50 per return visit will apply. If you currently have a septic system, there will be separate costs for the abandonment of the septic system which are the responsibility of the property owner. A Household Sewage Treatment System Abandonment Application is available from the Village. There is no additional fee for this.

Q. How much will this cost the average homeowner?

A. Each property is unique, so there is no standard cost. The distance from the home/building to the connection point in the right-of-way, the number of obstructions, the amount of pavement, etc., will all influence the final cost. Keeping this in mind, we believe most homeowners can expect the cost to fall in a range from \$800.00 to \$2,000.00.

Q. Is financial assistance available for low-income customers?

A. Yes. Grant funds are available from the Federal Government (HUD) for qualifying customers. Details regarding eligibility and application information are available at the North Baltimore Village offices.