

How to Tell When Your Sewer Line Needs Replacing

Physical Indicators

The first clue that your sewer line needs replacing will more than likely be smell. You might notice it when you flush your toilet or when water is draining in the sink or even outside on your lawn. However, that's not the only indicator. Here are some other signs that your Asheville sewer line needs to be replaced:

- Heavy mold appearing on the walls or ceiling of your bathroom from an invisible leak in the walls
- You could get a small sinkhole in the yard
- If there are bubbles and strange noises coming from your toilet or tub
- When your sink is no longer draining efficiently despite your best efforts
- Outside you find sidewalks or pavers beginning to sink
- Large wet spots on your lawn when the weather's been dry
- A particularly lush patch of grass, being fertilized by raw sewage underground
- An increase in rodents and certain insects that can survive in the pipes and sewage, using the pipes to travel to your home

How Do You Know if Your Pipes are Up to Snuff?

Nowadays, homes are built with CPVC pipes that can handle water pressure as well as hot and cold running water. If your home was built in 1970 or earlier, chances are your Asheville sewer lines are clay pipes and will need to be replaced at some point. Keep in mind that any pipe can break over time due to a variety of factors, no matter what material is used. Clay pipes are more likely to need replacing though, and here's why:

- Clay pipes can give way under pressure from tree roots, which can then grow into the pipes, filling them with roots, thereby clogging your system or even breaking through the pipes and causing collapse.
- Clay pipes are more susceptible to wearing down over time due to pressures, the hot and cold temperatures running through them, and other environmental factors that can cause them to become brittle.
- Clay pipes can be more easily crushed during construction work, digging or while heavy vehicles travel over them.

Do's and Don'ts

If it turns out your Asheville sewer lines do need replacing, there are several things to consider:

- Experts do not recommend trying to replace only a portion of your clay pipes. Chances are, the rest of your clay pipes will collapse later. Also, it is challenging to install and properly seal other types of pipes to a clay pipe, increasing the risk of another leak down the road.
- If your Asheville sewer line is broken due to tree roots, it's better to remove the tree, otherwise, you will find roots pressing in on your new CPVS pipes in the future. While new materials are better, they are not indestructible.
- Most homeowners' insurance plans do not in fact cover sewer line repair or replacement. Often, once a problem occurs, all options to replace your Asheville sewer lines run about the same expense and all include some sort of negative aspect. Your best bet, to save your mature landscaping and paver patios, is to have a company check and see if you have clay pipes now, before there is a problem, especially if you have an older home. Once the pipe breaks, it could be in an awkward location that leaves you no choice but to rip out carefully tended, expensive plantings.