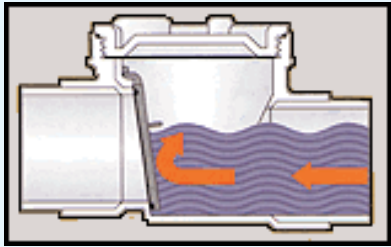
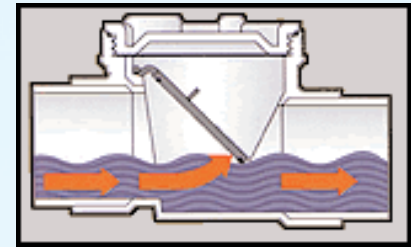


The Backwater Valve Program

Your property may be eligible for assistance. Details inside.

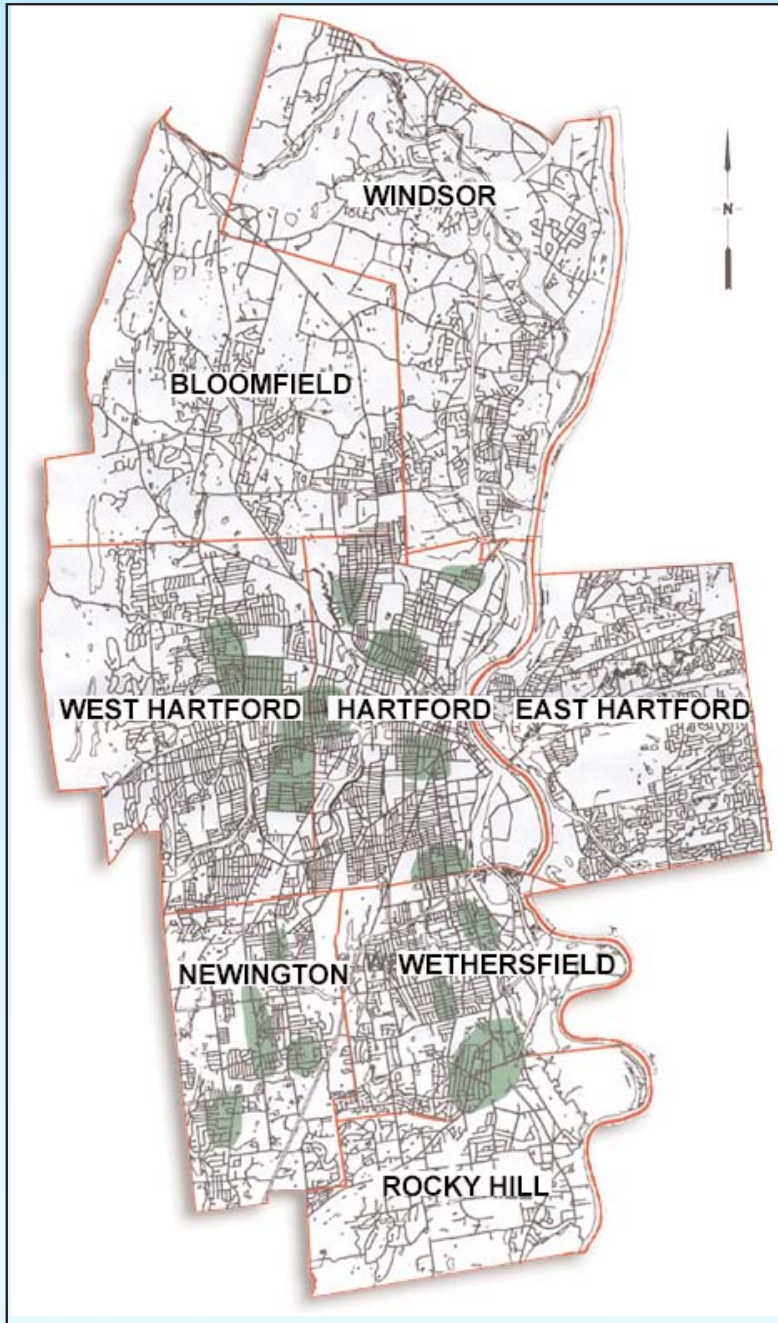


Backwater Valve protecting the basement from the sewer.



Backwater Valve allowing waste waters to flow to the sewers.

Preventing Sewer Backups - The Backwater Valve Program



Frequently Asked Questions

Does every building need, or have, a backwater valve?

No. Very few buildings actually need or have a backwater valve. Backwater valves were used in the late 1800's through the early 1900's as an early form of sump pump. Many building owners replaced the old backwater valve with a modern day electric sump pump. But for those who still have the old backwater valve in their basement drain, it has become a non-working hazard rather than the helpful tool it was meant to be.

How does a backwater valve work?

The backwater valve sits in a pit in the basement floor. It was designed to allow rainwater to exit the basement. It also allows your foundation drains to remove ground water from under the basement floor. But, in time, as sewers become overwhelmed with rainwater, the backwater valve slams shut and protects the basement. As years pass, the old iron backwater valve becomes a rusted and mud filled pit, and the backwater valve remains stuck in the open position, allowing waste water to enter basements during heavy rains.

Who is responsible for the backwater valve in my basement?

You. As the building owner you are responsible for the maintenance of all plumbing on your property.

Why is the MDC assisting customers with the replacement and repair of these old backwater valves?

After interviewing hundreds of customers, MDC discovered that very few people know what this hole in their basement floor was, or what it did. The MDC is currently working to remove the rainwater from sanitary sewers, but until that job is complete the MDC is assisting customers in repairing or replacing backwater valves.

Can anyone qualify for this program?

No. This program was designed to assist those customers who are truly in need. The map to your left shows sections highlighted in green. These are the areas in Hartford, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Newington and Rocky Hill where engineering studies have shown the most difficulty during heavy rainstorms. You can access a larger version of this map by visiting our website at www.themdc.com Properties outside of these green areas can still qualify, but only if that property demonstrates chronic problems with the sewer main.

Is this a mandatory program?

No. The MDC is offering this program to assist customers. Not every building will qualify and this program will not help with rainwater seeping into your basement. It is strictly a volunteer program for MDC customers who have trouble with sewers backing up into their basements during heavy rains, or with sewer main blockages.

What's the first step I should take during a sewer back up?

The first thing you should do is to call the MDC and report the stoppage. During regular business hours call (860) 278-7850, ext. 3642. In the evening call (860) 251-7274. The MDC will check the main sewer for a blockage and if it is blocked, the MDC will clear it. If the main sewer is clear, the property owner must hire a licensed plumber or drain layer and take the necessary steps to power rod the house lateral to free the stoppage. If this rodding is performed and the blockage cannot be freed, the owner or the plumber should call the MDC so that we may send an inspector to witness and record the rodding of the sewer house connection to determine the location of the blockage. Because every blockage is different, the MDC inspector will work with you to explain what steps must take place from this point on.

How the Program Works

1. The property owner calls to schedule an appointment with Carol Skaggs at (860) 278-7850, Extension 3444. An MDC inspector will verify that the property is qualified. After receiving a written approval, proceed to step 2.
2. The property owner obtains two detailed work estimates. A Connecticut-licensed and insured P-1 plumbing contractor, participating in this program, must assess your property and recommend the installation to satisfactorily protect your home from sewer system backups. You are responsible for choosing the best solution for your home.
3. The property owner fills out the pre-approval application (see reverse side). Attach the two estimates from Connecticut licensed and insured P-1 plumbing contractors participating in this program. Once the MDC receives the information, funds will be reserved for your property. You will receive a response to your application within three weeks. After receiving a written approval, proceed to step 4.
4. Either the property owner or the authorized agent (plumber) must apply to the town or city for a permit to undertake the work. Payment will only be granted if the proposed installation meets local building codes. You or your authorized agent must present technical sketches or drawings of the proposed backwater valve installation to your local License and Inspections Office. The property owner's signature must be on the sketch or drawing to indicate agreement with the proposed plan.
5. Plumbing Inspection. When work is complete, the property owner must request that the town or city's plumbing inspector examine and approve the finished plumbing work. The inspector will determine if the eligible elements, noted in the technical proposal, have been installed in a manner that meets the Building Code. If the installation is satisfactory, the inspector will provide you with a confirmation certificate.
6. The plumber submits the following to the MDC for payment:
 - a. The plumbing inspector's confirmation certificate.
 - b. A copy of the plumbing contractor's itemized invoice for completed work.
7. The property owner calls to schedule an appointment with Carol Skaggs at (860) 278-7850 Extension 3444. An MDC representative will verify completion of the work.
8. A check will be mailed to the plumber within two to three weeks after verification.

Notes:

Multiple buildings owned by one person: The difference between submitted costs for one building and the maximum payment for any one installation/repair cannot be applied in part or in total to any other building's installation/repair. **Multiple Backwater Valves in one building:** Property owners are allowed only one payment for each eligible building owned. The Property owner is responsible for any and all costs over the specified \$1,500.00. **This program does not apply to new construction or additions to pre-existing buildings, which must be constructed in accordance with local building codes.**



Protecting Your Basement is as easy as 1-2-3.



The Metropolitan District
PO Box 800
Hartford, CT 06142-0800

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
PERMIT NO. 1504

PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION

Name: _____

Property _____

Address: _____

Mailing _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Installation of backwater valves does not guaranty that sewage and/or water will not infiltrate the above-referenced premises. Neither the MDC, nor any of its agents, contractors and/or employees, has made any representations, written or oral, as to the effectiveness of backwater valves in preventing sewage and/or water infiltration into the above-referenced premises. Further, the MDC is not responsible for the installation and maintenance of the backwater valve(s).

I verify that I have read pages one through three of this document and understand all of the above.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

COMPLETE AND MAIL TO:
The Metropolitan District
Engineering and Planning Department
Backwater Valve Program
Post Office Box 800
Hartford, Connecticut 06142-0800

