

Dear Member Town Official,

I am contacting you to remind you about the availability of the MDC's long-standing Sewer Backup Prevention and Reporting Program, also known as, the Backwater Valve (BWV) Program. A BWV can protect properties that are susceptible to sewer back-ups caused by storms such as properties located in low lying areas, or homes that have toilets and sink fixtures in basements. BWVs prevent wastewater and stormwater from entering a building during surcharges of the MDC's sewer system. The MDC's BWV Program is a free and turnkey service to our customers.

In addition to raising awareness of our BWV program, I would encourage the implementation of permitting and inspection programs for basement plumbing fixtures installations in our Member towns. I've included information in the attachments that address how the plumbing code provides installation requirements to eliminate basement sewer backups for your residents and MDC's customers.

It is important that property owners notify the Town and MDC any plumbing installations that take place as they may make them susceptible to back-ups unbeknownst to them. In our experience, properties that experience surcharges have often not been properly inspected by the Town or the MDC to ensure that the installations meet plumbing code, which would prevent future back-ups. The MDC and its staff stand ready to help our member town municipal staff in any way with this issue. We are happy to make copies of the MDC's program brochures available for you to have on hand at your Town Halls or other town facilities.

MDC also offers its services of the Sewer Backup Prevention Program along with Town Building Departments to review and/or inspect properties during property sales to conform that new owners are purchasing a property that has compliant plumbing and install devices to avoid future potential backups. From my experience, this would be a valuable service to future homebuyers that are unaware of the potential issue.

See map of areas prone to surcharges based on MDC's sanitary sewer evaluation study SSES as part of the Clean Water Project. While MDC recommends all homes receive this protection through the program, it would be prudent to target the homes and properties historically identified as prone to surcharges.

MDC will be coordinating meetings with Town Public Works, Building Inspections and Engineering in the near future to discuss opportunities to help customers and your residents. This will be in addition to our regular annual meetings for paving coordination.

In addition to working with you and your staff to address this issue, we will increase efforts to communicate information about this program directly to our customers. See attached links to additional information on our website. I've also included a brochure on MDC's latest program that provides financial assistance to residents/customers for the replacement of their water and sewer services.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Christopher Levesque, P.E.
Chief Operating Officer
Metropolitan District
555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06114
T: 860-278-7850 x3113