

Inflow & Infiltration (I & I)

The City of Fort St. John has a separated sewer made up of two sewer systems, the sanitary sewer & the storm sewer.

WHAT IS I & I?

When rainwater and groundwater that enter the sanitary sewer through a variety of defects.

SANITARY SEWER:

Designed to carry sewage to facilities that treat the water before returning it to the environment.

STORM SEWER:

Prevents streets from being flooded by draining and carrying excess stormwater from rainfall and snow melt to the river.

INFLOW:

Rainwater or snow melt that enters the sewer system through:

- cross-connections with storm drains
- roofs
- foundation drains
- manhole covers
- yards
- downspouts

INFILTRATION:

Groundwater or waste that enters the sewer through cracks, leaky joints or another failure in the pipe's structural integrity, as well as holes and cracks in manholes and contributes flow to municipal water sewer.



WHY IS I & I AN ISSUE?

- Takes capacity from the system which leaves less for existing residents and future growth.
- It can cause sanitary overflows or backups into private property, especially during a storm event.
- The additional flows add water volume to the sewer system that doesn't need to be treated, which make it less efficient. This adds ADDITIONAL COSTS for wastewater treatment.

HOW CAN WE FIX IT?

BE PROACTIVE

- Disconnect groundwater sump pumps, roof downspouts, gutter, and drains from sanitary sewer system.
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs over sewer laterals as roots seek water and are a cause of damage to pipes.
- Know where your sewer lateral is on your property.
- Get your sewer lateral inspected; maintaining and repairing the lateral is the homeowner's responsibility.
- Ensure adequate drainage away from buildings to avoid water flowing into weeping tile.
- Ensure roof leaders and sump pumps are directed far away from homes.

More on I & I from the CRD

Check out more information about Inflow & Infiltration from the Capital Regional District (CRD).



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