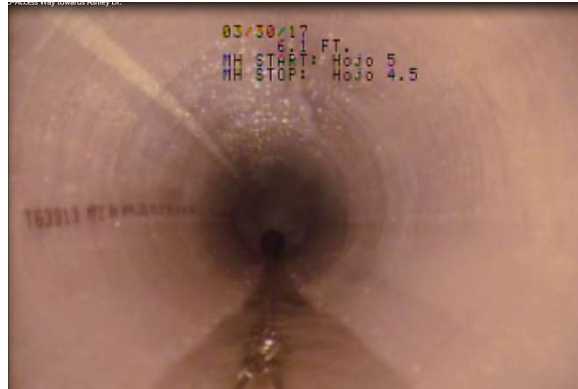


## Sewer lining basics and frequently asked questions

### **What is sewer lining?**

Sewer lining is a process of rehabilitating a sewer. Bloomington uses it because it is proven effective and efficient. It is affordable, saving millions of dollars compared to a more time consuming process of excavating, removing old sewer, and laying new pipe.

Think of a large tube sock. The sock, or the liner, is pushed through the sewer pipe with steam, water, or air. The liner clings to the side of the pipe. It then cures and hardens, forming a fiberglass-like shell coating the old sewer pipe. The liner becomes a pipe inside a pipe. The City expects a liner to last several decades. It is the primary method of sewer rehabilitation envisioned in the Bloomington sewer master plan, which was created by a team of specialists and adopted by the City Council on September 14, 2015.



*The inside of a newly lined sewer pipe (taken from CCTV video)*

### **Who does the lining?**

Sewer lining is overseen by the Engineering Division of Bloomington Public Works. Annually, the City obtains competitive bids from private contractors to do the actual construction.

### **Will I lose service during liner installation?**

Yes, but only for a portion of the day, in nearly every case. When the liner goes in, it covers up all the services that connect the sewer main to customers. For a time, your building is essentially plugged at the sewer main. PLEASE DO NOT shower or do laundry during the installation and refrain from all use of toilets and faucets. The lining crew must wait for the liner to cure (time various based on size of the pipe). The crew will then reinstitute (cut open) the services, either by hand or by mechanical means. When your area is under liner construction, the City and its contractor circulate notices. Those notices will specify the times in which a property will be out of service, and during that time you should not use any water.

### **Why do some properties have an unpleasant smell inside during and after lining?**

Sometimes an odor enters property during the lining process. Customers sometimes describe it as smelling like glue. The cause of the odor is a widely used resin. However, the actual *cause* of the odor entering the building may be a private plumbing issue.

### **What if the smell enters my building?**

If your building smells during or after the lining work, *ventilate the building and call Bloomington Public Works at (309) 434-2225*. The presence of the odor from the sewer may be a sign of a plumbing problem in the building. In some cases, a licensed plumber is needed to inspect, diagnose, and correct a sewer-odor problem. Public Works can advise to an extent, but the Department doesn't employ plumbers and, by policy, does not recommend plumbing companies. Be mindful that if resin vapors are entering your building during lining, you can assume that sewer vapors are entering at other times. *Plumbing should prevent vapors from traveling from a sewer into a building at all times*. Additives may be used to change the odor, making it less unpleasant. One additive may make the vapors smell like grape. However, regardless of the smell, the concern remains. Please contact Public Works.

Odor Prevention: In cases in which odor enters the building, the odor usually enters through a floor drain, usually located in the basement, but vapors also can enter through bathroom plumbing. *Prior to the lining work*, pour water into the floor drains and run a small amount of water through all sinks. Cover the floor drains.

### **Can the air pressure during lining push water out of a toilet?**

This happens on occasion, according to Hoerr Construction, which has been contracted by the City for lining projects. Hoerr recommends the following preventative measure: Drape a towel over the rim of the toilets *prior to the work beginning*. Close the toilet seat and lid over the towel.