



# The Sewers on the Street

## Understanding Sewer Infrastructure

To manage wastewater flushed down toilets and emptied down sinks and drains from Toronto properties, the City has nearly 3,800 kilometres of sanitary sewers located under the streets and more than 523,000 City-owned sewer service line connections.

There are two parts of the underground sewer service line – the City-side that is connected to the sanitary sewer under the street and the private-side that is connected to the property with the division at the property line. Private-side sewer service lines are the responsibility of the property owner.

**A property can have one of three types of sewer connections:**

1. A single connection where the property is directly connected to the City sanitary sewer;
2. A "Y" connection where two properties (two neighbours) are connected through a single connection to the City sanitary sewer; or
3. A header connection where more than two properties are connected, by a header, through a single connection to the City sanitary sewer.

While there are three types of sewer connections, there are two types of sewer systems in Toronto: the separated sewer system and the combined sewers system.

## Separated Sewer System

### Sanitary sewers

## Related Information

**[Basement Flooding](https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-rain-melted-snow/basement-flooding/)**  
(<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-rain-melted-snow/basement-flooding/>)

**[Mandatory Downspout Disconnection](https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-rain-melted-snow/basement-flooding/mandatory-downspout-disconnection/)**  
(<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-rain-melted-snow/basement-flooding/mandatory-downspout-disconnection/>)

**[How You Can Help Manage Stormwater](https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-rain-melted-snow/how-you-can-help-manage-stormwater/)**  
(<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-rain-melted-snow/how-you-can-help-manage-stormwater/>)

**[Protecting & Improving Lake,](#)**