

For successful backwater valve maintenance you must complete a visual inspection of the entire valve area to determine if there is any debris.

To do this you will need to remove the cleanout plug from the top of the valve making sure the O-ring stays with the plug/cap.

- Most of the time, the malfunctioning of the valve is the result of debris stuck around the gate hindering its free movement.
- A fast jet of water can often help you in cleaning the gate area of the valve, this can be done by lowering a hose and rinsing the gate area.
- If adequate cleaning cannot be performed, then removing the valve flapper with stem pipe is recommended for further cleaning, this may require contacting a qualified contractor.
- You should also check the O-ring of the backwater valve plug/cap. If the O-ring is not in good condition, replace it.

EXTERIOR BACKWATER VALVE

Inspection and Maintenance

BACKWATER VALVE

The drainage system inside your house channels wastewater from your sinks, laundry, shower and toilet through pipes that connect to a main sanitary sewer pipe under your basement floor. This pipe leads to the property line where it connects with the EPCOR main line.

A backwater valve is placed on the main sanitary sewer pipe to prevent sewage from flowing back into your home and flooding your basement in a severe storm event. It does this by automatically closing its flap.

Note: When the backwater valve closes the sewer line, you should not use the toilet, sink, shower, washer, or dishwasher. Until the flap is reopened, the wastewater will have nowhere to go except up the floor drain and into your basement.

A backwater valve is an important tool for protecting your home, but it does require maintenance to ensure it remains effective.

