

# NO CORRODE (OR “ORANGEBURG”) SEWER PIPES

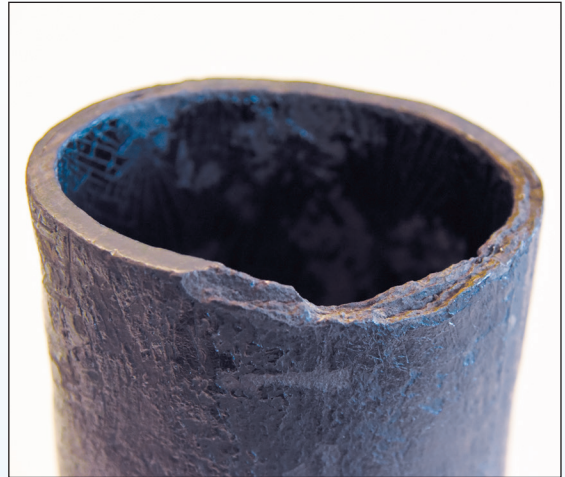
## History

No-corrode sewer pipe, or “Orangeburg” (named after the town in New York State where it was primarily manufactured) is a bituminized fiber pipe made from layers of wood pulp and tar pitch pressed together - essentially tar paper.

No-corrode pipe was used in Edmonton from the 1940’s through the 1960’s when it was replaced with PVC. No-corrode pipe was lightweight, albeit brittle, and soft enough to be cut with a handsaw. It was a low cost alternative to heavier cast iron and clay tile pipes used previously. Lack of strength causes pipes made of no-corrode to fail more frequently than pipes made of other materials. The average life of no-corrode pipe is about 50 years under ideal conditions. Due to its susceptibility to absorb water and deform under pressure, it has been taken off the list of acceptable materials by most building codes. No-corrode pipe was not used as a sewer pipe on the EPCOR side (from the property line to the sewer main).

## What happens when the pipe begins to deteriorate?

The pipe will start to become oval in shape as it softens due to the pressure of the soil above. As the pipe deteriorates further, it may start to buckle at the bottom. Once the deterioration process begins, the pipes tend to deform quite quickly. At this point homeowners may experience tree root infiltration and frequent sewer back-ups.



## What is the solution?

If the pipe has not lost its structural shape, re-lining the inside of the pipe with a resin-impregnated material may be a viable repair option. If the pipe has started to oval, then replacement of the entire pipe from the foundation to the property line may be the only course of action.

Remember, as the homeowner, you are responsible for your section of sewer pipe from the house to the property line, and therefore should educate yourself as much as possible on your choices prior to making any repair decisions. This sheet is for information only; decisions about replacement is up to you.

EPCOR does not do replacement work on private property, but if you wish to discuss re-lining or replacement of your existing pipe by private contractors, one of our customer service staff will be happy to phone you back and answer any questions you may have. EPCOR does not provide recommendations on specific private contractors.