

CHECK VALVE

MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

How to Maintain Your Whole-House Check Valve

A whole-house check valve is a one-way valve that is installed on a house or building's sewer lead. The lead is the privately-owned sewer service line or sewer lateral which connects your home to the public sanitary sewage system.

A properly installed and maintained check valve will prevent sanitary sewage from backing up into your basement.

How does a check valve work?

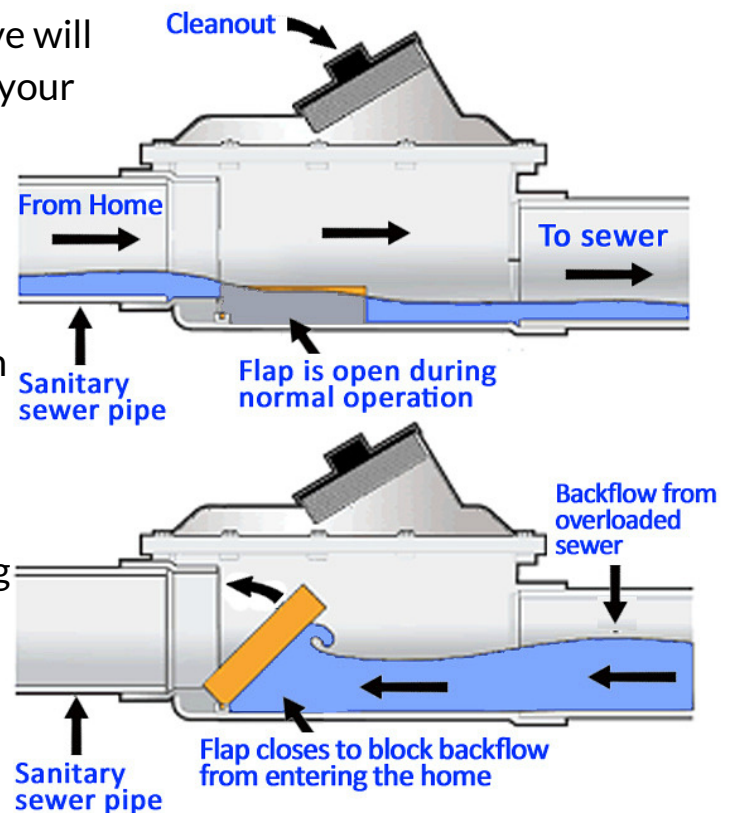
A check valve or backwater valve can be installed in the basement at the exit point from the home or in the sewer lead outside the home.

The check valve prevents sewage from backing up into the lead beyond this valve.

A check valve has an internal mechanical flapper that will close a sewer pipe opening when surcharges from the public sewer system attempt to back up into your basement.



Sanitary sewer check valves are also known as backwater valves or backflow preventers.



CAUTION: When your whole-house check valve is engaged, sewage from the overloaded public sewer system cannot enter your house. However, this also means that wastewater cannot leave your house, via toilets or sinks, until the sewer system recovers.





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These valves need to be inspected and maintained regularly to ensure that they are operating properly. The property owner is responsible for the maintenance of a backwater valve.



Always refer to manufacturer instructions as your primary guide for check valve maintenance for *your* installation. Following are some general guidelines.



Inspection & Maintenance

Whole-house check valves are mechanical devices operating in a sewage environment, and require regular annual or biannual inspections. To make sure the check valve is working properly, follow the procedures listed below.



Be sure to wear gloves and safety glasses to protect yourself from sewage!



1. Remove the cleanout plug on the top of the valve and visually inspect the area.
2. Use a flashlight or trouble light to see inside the valve body.
3. Inspect for debris and buildup on the valve, flap and beneath the flap.
4. If debris or buildup is found, flush clean with water.
5. Inspect the o-ring and replace if necessary. The valve's flap seals against an o-ring on the body (in the closed position.)
6. Ensure flap freely moves back and forth.
7. Reinstall cleanout plug.