

Sewer Lateral Installation/Replacement

(Open Trench Method)
Safe. Thorough. Built to Last.

A properly installed or replaced sewer lateral protects your property, health, and wallet. Using the **open trench method**, we ensure complete visibility, precise slope correction, and durable connections—guaranteeing peace of mind for decades to come.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN OUR TECHNICIAN ARRIVES

Here's what happens step by step when we perform an open trench sewer lateral replacement:

1. **Initial Inspection & Permits**
 - Conduct sewer camera inspection (if not already completed)
 - Determine pipe depth, slope, length, and connection point to the city main
 - Handle city permits, utility markings, and HOA notifications (if needed)
2. **Site Prep & Safety Measures**
 - Mark trench layout and protect surrounding property (landscape, driveway, walkways)
 - Dig access trench (typically 3–8 feet deep) along the pipe route
 - Use shoring or trench boxes for safety as needed
3. **Old Pipe Removal & New Pipe Installation**
 - Remove damaged or outdated pipe (clay, cast iron, Orangeburg, etc.)
 - Install new SDR-17 or approved sewer-grade pipe
 - Ensure proper slope ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch per foot) and secure watertight joints
4. **City Inspection & Connection**
 - Schedule and pass city or sanitation district inspection
 - Connect to city main or wye using approved methods
5. **Backfilling & Site Restoration**
 - Backfill in layers, compacting each layer to prevent settling
 - Restore basic landscaping, soil, or hardscape areas (special finishes extra)

Time Estimate:

2–4 days depending on depth, length, and site complexity. Permits and city inspections time extra.

WHAT IS THIS SERVICE / FIXTURE FOR? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The **sewer lateral** is the pipe that connects your home's plumbing system to the city sewer main, usually running underground from your home's foundation to the curb or property line.

Why It's Critical:

- **Prevents Sewage Backups:** A damaged or collapsed lateral can send sewage back into your home
- **Protects Public Health:** Ensures proper containment and removal of wastewater
- **Code & Compliance:** Most municipalities require replacement when selling or remodeling
- **Peace of Mind:** New sewer laterals last 50–100 years when installed correctly

The **open trench method** is the most trusted approach for long-lasting results—it allows full visual inspection, exact slope correction, and premium material installation.

REPAIR OR REPLACE? YOUR OPTIONS

Depending on the condition of your existing sewer line, our technician may recommend:

- **Repair** — Patch a small, localized break or crack (if accessible)
- **Spot Repair** — Replace a short section of pipe using trench access
- **Full Replacement** — Replace the entire line from house to curb
- **Upgrade** — Install cleanouts, backwater valves, or access ports for future service

COMPARE YOUR OPTIONS

Option	Pros	Cons	Budget	Ideal When	Time to Complete
Repair	Quick fix, low cost	Not ideal for old or failing pipes	\$	Newer lines with small cracks or roots	1–3 hours
Spot Repair	Targets the problem area	May not address underlying pipe deterioration	\$\$	Isolated issue with otherwise healthy pipe	1 day
Full Replacement	Long-term solution, code-compliant, modern materials	More invasive, requires digging	\$\$\$	Aging, cracked, root-filled, or offset lines	2–4 days
Upgrade	Prevents future issues (cleanout, backwater valve)	Slight additional cost	\$\$–\$\$\$	Best during full replacement for future convenience	Add-on (1–2 hrs)


HOMEOWNER TIPS & TRICKS

- **Know the Signs of Failure:** Frequent backups, slow drains, or gurgling sounds can indicate a failing lateral
- **Avoid Root Damage:** Keep trees and shrubs away from sewer lines
- **Be Kind to Your Pipes:** Avoid flushing grease, wipes, or non-degradable items
- **Plan Ahead:** Many Bay Area cities require lateral inspection & replacement before selling a home—get ahead of it
- **Install a Backwater Valve:** Prevents sewage from backing into your home during heavy rains or blockages

Trust Bayshore Plumbers to Do It Right

We're not just plumbers—we're your neighbors. Our licensed team handles every sewer lateral project with care, precision, and respect for your home and property.

Whether it's a city-mandated replacement or proactive protection for your home, we'll walk you through every step—from permits to final inspection.

 **Call today** to schedule your sewer lateral evaluation and see if open trench installation is right for your home.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):

1. What is a sewer lateral, and why would I need to replace it?

Your sewer lateral is the **underground pipe that connects your home's plumbing to the city sewer system**. If it's cracked, collapsed, or blocked by roots, it can cause **sewage backups, slow drains, or health risks**. Many Bay Area cities require lateral upgrades before a home can be sold or remodeled.

2. Why use the open trench method instead of trenchless options?

The open trench method allows for **full visibility, precise slope correction, and secure, watertight connections** — making it the most trusted solution for long-term reliability. It's ideal when dealing with older pipes, major damage, or when local codes require visual inspection.

3. How long does the sewer lateral replacement take?

Most open trench replacements take **2 to 4 days**, depending on trench depth, pipe length, and access. This timeline includes excavation, pipe installation, inspection, and backfilling — though permit approvals and city inspections may add extra time.

4. Will you restore my yard, driveway, or landscaping afterward?

Yes — we backfill carefully in layers and **restore soil, basic landscaping, and hardscape** where possible. If you have special finishes like stamped concrete or custom landscaping, we'll explain options for additional restoration or coordinate with your preferred contractor.

5. What's the cost difference between spot repair and full replacement?

- **Spot repair** is quicker and less expensive but only fixes a short section and may not address underlying issues.
- **Full replacement** is more comprehensive, ensures code compliance, and typically lasts **50–100 years**.
Our technician will provide clear pricing and help you weigh long-term value vs. short-term fixes.

6. Do you handle permits and city inspections?

Absolutely. We take care of **permits, utility marking, HOA notifications, and city inspection scheduling**. You won't have to navigate city red tape — we handle it all, start to finish, and ensure your project meets local codes.