

Trees and other landscaping help to beautify your yard. By planning wisely you can avoid the headaches and damage that can occur to underground utilities, especially sewer lines.



**Plant Wisely
Protect your
Sewer Lateral**

Unity Township Municipal Authority
370 Pleasant Unity Mutual Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

What Can You Do

- ◆ Know where your lateral is on your property. By finding a few reference points, the lateral can be located easily. There should be a cleanout pipe near the house and one near the edge of the property line. These are typically located directly above the lateral and the lateral will be in a straight line between them.
- ◆ All trees should be kept as far from the sewer line as possible. Slow growing trees with small root balls are okay if you are willing to replace them every 10 years or so. Even slow growing trees will eventually grow large enough to cause damage.
- ◆ Consider using a trellis, fence or arbor to help create the vertical interest that typically would be achieved with trees. Large potted plants also work well.

The pipe that connects your home to the main sanitary sewer line is called a lateral. The water and waste in the lateral can be "sensed" by tree roots. Roots have a way of finding their way into laterals. Once inside, they thrive on the contents of the lateral. Slowly growing into a dense clump that can break the pipe and cause a blockage.

Once this happens, you will likely have sewage backing up into the house resulting in a messy cleanup and other damage. In addition, the lateral will likely need replaced to keep the roots from quickly re-growing. The cleanup, damage and lateral replacement can be very expensive.

Pa One Call

If you are digging with a backhoe or other piece of equipment, you are required to call the Pa One Call System. Home owners can call 811 to have the utilities marked.

Who We Are

The Unity Township Municipal Authority (UTMA) owns and operates approximately 180 miles of collection line, 8 pump stations and two wastewater treatment plants serving approximately 7,100 customers, including homes, businesses and industries. Wastewater generated by these customers is processed at the 0.950 MGD Pleasant Unity Wastewater Treatment Plant, 0.950 MGD 14 Mile Run Wastewater Treatment Plant, 5 MGD Latrobe Municipal Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Hempfield Township Authority New Stanton Plant.

UTMA's annual operating budget is approximately \$6,000,000.

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web: www.utmapa.org