



TOWN OF WAREHAM

Water Pollution Control Facility

6 Tony's Lane Wareham, MA 02571

Tree Roots in the Sewer System

How do tree roots get into the sewer system, and what damage do they cause? Tree roots can enter the sewer system through cracked pipes, old pipes and joints, and fast growing tree species (Forest Service-U.S Department of Agriculture). Tree roots can grow up to one (1) foot per day if living in the correct conditions (Rooter). Tree roots growing in the sewer pipes can cause blockages as well as slow drains that can back up into your home or business (Rooter). All information and statements are general in nature.

Blockages can cause [Sanitary Sewer Overflows](#) or SSO's. SSO's can pose severe environmental problems and cause chronic illnesses. Some illnesses include Polio, E-Coli, Dysentery, Cholera, and more. Tree roots can cause sewerage from the pipes to seep into your yard and cause for odor and spongy grass.



Figure 1: Small Diagram to Show Tree Roots in a Sewer System



Figure 2: Real Tree Roots in a Sewer Line



TOWN OF WAREHAM

Water Pollution Control Facility

6 Tony's Lane Wareham, MA 02571

How Do You Know If There's Tree Roots In Your Sewer Line?

You can tell if [Tree Roots](#) have entered the sewer Line by some of the following, as well as mentioned above.

1. Tree roots can cause your yard and home to develop a rotten egg odor, and other foul odors due to the seepage into the ground. (Recycling)
2. Tree roots can cause a toilet, sink, shower, and more to back up into your home or business. This can lead to a costly cleanup inside as well as cleaning out the roots in the pipes. (Recycling)
3. Sinkholes can develop on your property due to the growth of the tree roots. If you notice a sinkhole call a contractor immediately because the property may be in danger of serious damage. (Recycling)
4. Flushing the toilet and hearing a gurgling sound as well as slow drainage are signs of tree root invasion in the sewer line. This risk is particularly high for older homes, or homes where large trees grow nearby. (Recycling)

Figure 3: Tree Root Progression in a Sewer Line

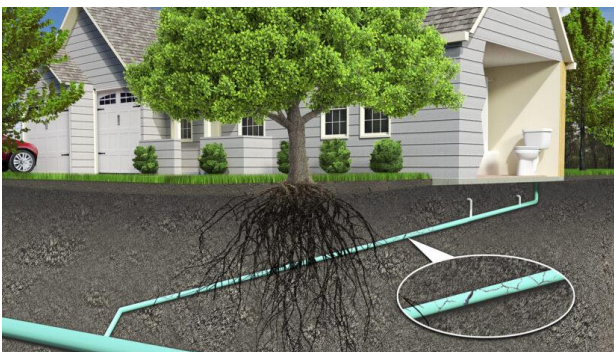
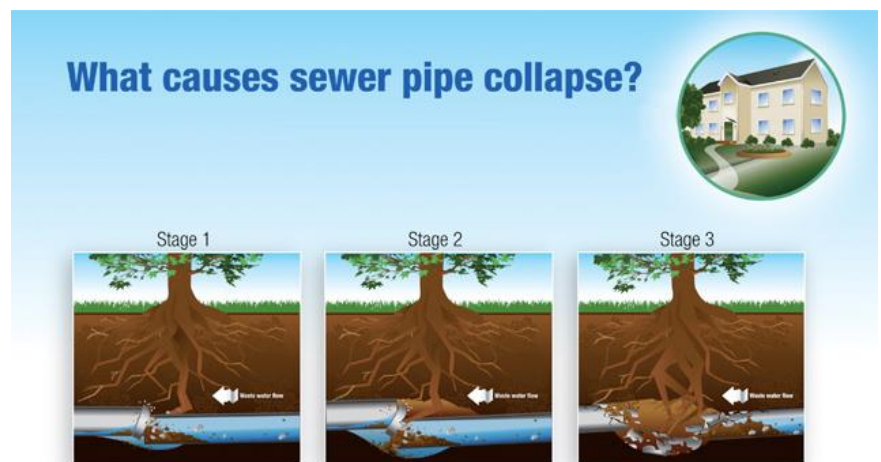


Figure 4: Tree Root Diagram





TOWN OF WAREHAM

Water Pollution Control Facility

6 Tony's Lane Wareham, MA 02571

What Product Can Help With This Issue?

The Wareham Water Pollution Control (WPCF) carries **FREE** Root-Kill for all sewer-users. To obtain your Root-Kill, application cone as well as the instructions and chemical information, come to 6 Tony's Lane in Wareham, MA 02571. There is a sign-out book for the Root-Kill located in the office, where you will also find the instructions and chemical information.



Figure 5: The Root-Kill Available at WPCF



Figure 6: The Root-Kill and Application Cone

Works Cited

- Forest Service- U.S Department of Agriculture. *Tree root intrusion in sewer systems: A review of extent and costs*. March 2001. Website and PDF file. 11 February 2023.
- Recycling, A&L. *Signs You May Have Tree Roots In Your Sewer Pipes*. 15 July 2020. <https://alcesspool.com/signs-that-you-may-have-tree-roots-in-your-sewer-pipes/>. 11 February 2023.
- Rooter, ARS Rescue. *Do I Have Tree Roots in My Sewer Lines?* 9 January 2022. Website. 11 February 2023.



TOWN OF WAREHAM
Water Pollution Control Facility
6 Tony's Lane Wareham, MA 02571

Please do not hesitate to call the office for any questions or for a tour of the Wareham Water Pollution Control Facility. We are open Monday – Friday 7am to 3:30pm. (508) 295- 6144.

