



## MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

1000 Commerce Drive  
Marquette, Michigan 49855  
Ph | 906.228.6220  
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[www.marquettetownship.org](http://www.marquettetownship.org)

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### **How do sewer backups occur?**

Sewer backups can occur by either sewage seeping in walls, floors, windows or backing up through basement floor drains. This often occurs during or after heavy rain events or when water overloads the sewer due to blockages due to debris, tree roots, grease, wipes, clothing, diapers or when a home sewer service line is in poor condition. Sewer backups are primarily caused by blockages in the home service line. Repairs and clean outs of the service line from the house to the sewer main are the responsibility of the homeowner.

### **What to do if a backup occurs:**

Please take the following steps to minimize health concerns and property damage:

Before entering the area, look for potential hazards for electrical shock and gas leaks. Due to the unsanitary nature of a sewer backup in the home, it is essential that all affected area be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible. Many private companies can handle cleanup. To find a company, search for "Fire and Water Damage Restoration." Marquette Township cannot recommend any contractor such as a plumber or cleaning service. All affected appliances should be inspected prior to putting them back into operation. Keep children and animals out of the affected area.

Take pictures of affected areas and keep receipts for insurance purposes.

In rare instances, the blockage is located in the sewer main. If you or your plumber suspect that the blockage is located in the sewer main, please call our office Monday-Friday from 8 am-5 pm at (906) 228-6220. If you need to report a backup after hours, please contact our office and follow the prompt for the afterhours emergency number.

### **Public Act 222: Sewer Backup Legislation**

The Act 222 of State of Michigan Public Act of 2001, clarifies when local governments are liable for sewer backups. The Act established a process to follow to seek compensation when a backup occurs. To make a claim for property damage or physical injury, it must be proven that the public sewer had a defect and that Marquette Township knew or should have known about the defect and failed to take reasonable steps to repair or correct the defect. If you would like to make a claim, you must file a written claim form with Marquette Township within 45 days after the backup or overflow is discovered.

**TOWNSHIP OF  
MARQUETTE  
NOTICE OF CLAIM**

In order to make a claim for damages or physical injury arising from a sewage disposal event, this form must be completed within 45 days of the event, failure to provide proper notice will bar your claim.

All claimants must provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Affected Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Please Briefly Describe the Claim: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Complete Damage Inventory Report attached)

Date of Discovery of Property Damages or Physical Injuries: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return To:  
Marquette Township  
Superintendent of Public Works  
1000 Commerce Drive  
Marquette, MI. 49855

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarded to: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarded to: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarded to: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_