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Policy

Title Sewer-Backup Prevention—Backwater Valves		Number DWW-351	Rev. no. 0
Responsibility Drainage & Wastewater Line of Business		Supersedes N/A	Pages 1
Branch Deputy Director Approval /s/ Madeline Fong Goddard	Approved June 11, 2018	Effective June 15, 2018	

1. In order to reduce sewer backups into private property caused by the City wastewater system, Seattle Public Utilities will consider the use of backwater valves, which are devices that prevent sewage from flowing back into the building.
2. SPU will consider and may fund the installation of backwater valves on private property if both of the following conditions are met: (a) a sewer backup into the private property was caused by the City wastewater system as verified by Drainage and Wastewater technical staff; and (b) a discharge of wastewater into the private property was caused by insufficient capacity to convey wastewater or storm flows in the sanitary- or combined-sewer portions of the City wastewater system during storm events.
3. SPU will consider and may fund the installation of backwater valves on private property if the wastewater capital improvement project (CIP) determines that the project cannot prevent a private-sewer backup from the City wastewater system within the project-defined level of service based on an engineering analysis of the project area. Project-defined level of service is the sewer-backup frequency target as set by Drainage and Wastewater Line of Business or the CIP project team.
4. The maintenance of a SPU-funded backwater valve is the responsibility of the private-property owner and will be recorded on the property title.
5. SPU will maintain a database of all backwater valves that are financially supported by SPU.