



The Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD) Sanitary Sewer Overflow Mitigation Project is comprised of three major components: performing engineering investigations to determine sewer problems, repairs and upgrades; identifying funding to enable repairs; and completing sewer system repairs and upgrades to reduce infiltration and inflow (I/I) and overflows. These three steps will move the community forward in the interest of repairing the sewer infrastructure for economic development and growth.

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I)

Infiltration occurs when clean ground water enters the sewer system through cracks in pipes, leaky joints or deteriorated manholes.

Inflow occurs when clean water from heavy rains or snowmelts is purposely introduced into the sewer system. Possible sources include sump pump connections, roof downspouts, and yard and driveway drains.

The Problem

I/I is a problem because it requires unnecessary sanitary treatment, which raises sewer treatment costs for the community. Even more, when too much water enters the sewers, the system can become overwhelmed and untreated overflows contribute to contamination of the Mohawk River.

Preventing the Issue

According to engineering studies, as much as 50% of the I/I problem can be removed if individual owners take action at their properties. There are many ways for home and business owners to prevent excess water from entering the sewer system. While the OCSD is working on a plan to help residents identify specific ways they can contribute to the solution, there are some easy and low-cost projects that residents can do now to help.

Disconnect Your Roof Leader

Disconnecting your roof leader (or downspout) from the sewer system is a relatively easy job. With just a few simple steps, you can keep that extra water out of the system. For information, talk with the experts at your local hardware/home improvement store.

Rain Barrel

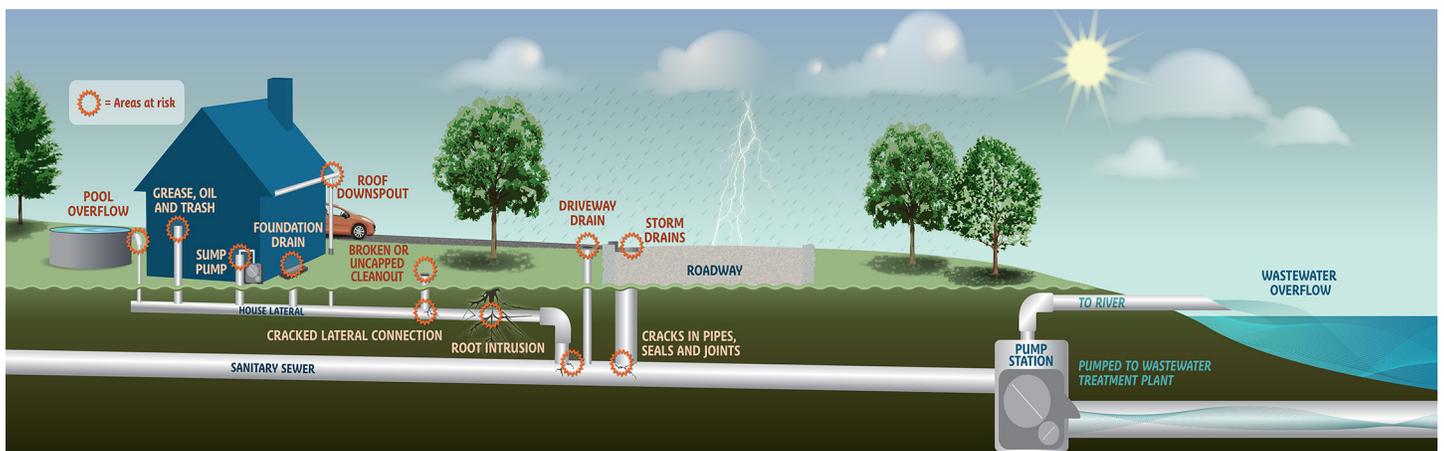
Capture the water that used to drain into the sewer system from your roof leader by using a rain barrel. Some of the things you can do with the water from a rain barrel include:

- Easily fill watering cans
- Water gardens, lawns and hanging plants
- Wash cars or pets



Rain Gardens

It's not only aesthetically pleasing – the simple steps to building your own rain garden also help prevent runoff from entering the sewer system. For additional help and advice, visit the home and garden section of your local home improvement store.



Sources of potential inflow and infiltration

Steven P. Devan, P.E., Commissioner
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