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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEWER BACKUPS - AN AVOIDABLE HEALTH HAZARD RISK

DATELINE HALIFAX –Jim Morton, Risk Control Specialist with Ecclesiastical Insurance's regional office in Halifax, has noted an alarming number of occurrences of sanitary sewer and unfriendly water backups in Canada during recent weeks. In addition to the health concerns of exposure to raw sewage, sewer backups cause severe damage to building interiors, create the potential for mould and are accompanied by foul smells.

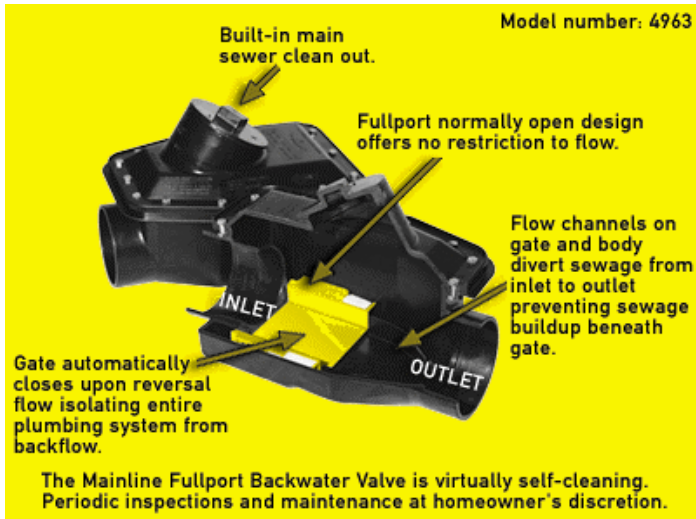
Backwater valves are used to prevent the backup of waste material and water through sanitary and storm sewer lines, basement drains and any other plumbing lines connected to sewer laterals and septic systems. So, why do sewer backups continue to be problematic? The most logical explanation is the type of backwater valve being used.

Standard backwater valves have a gate or flap that is hinged on the top. Over time, with the constant flow of effluent opening and closing the flap, it may remain slightly open. In addition, a build up of debris could prevent a strong seal and a surge of water from the main lines could stream back through an open valve if it is clogged.

In contrast, the Mainline Fullport Backwater Valve gate is hinged on the bottom and floats up and into the closed position when water or sewage flow reverses. Flow channels on the gate and body are designed to prevent sewage build-up beneath the gate so the valve has a 'normally open' gate design allowing free flow of effluent and air to vent through it. Another advantage to this type of valve is that installation can be in the main-building drain not exclusively the branch line. This may reduce or eliminate lateral excavation costs at the street or on site.

In discussions with plumbers and industry professionals, the Mainline Fullport Backwater Valve is widely used all across Canada. The diagram illustrates the working principal of the unit which is CSA certified Reference: CAN/CSA-B181. 1-M90 and is for use in horizontal pipe runs to floor drains, building drains, sewers, holding tanks etc.

PLEASE NOTE: With all types of valves, maintenance and monitoring is key. Please consult a plumbing professional concerning the installation of any backwater valve.



If your building is in a known flood zone, an area with a high water table, is on a city or town sewer line or down gradient of a separate or combined storm or sanitary sewer line or is otherwise on a grade that may promote sewer or surface water back up through drains you should seek advice on the installation of an appropriate backwater valve.

About Ecclesiastical Insurance

Ecclesiastical Insurance is the insurer of choice for Canada's places of worship, and a specialist insurer of retirement homes, education facilities, museums and galleries, charities, non-profit organizations, and heritage properties.

Established in the United Kingdom in 1887, Ecclesiastical has been present in Canada since 1972. The company is owned by a charitable trust, and is committed to serving the needs of its customers and the larger community. Apart from funds required for business operations, group profits are redistributed for the benefit of faith and charitable initiatives. Ecclesiastical is rated "A" by A.M. Best, and "A-" by Standard and Poor's.

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