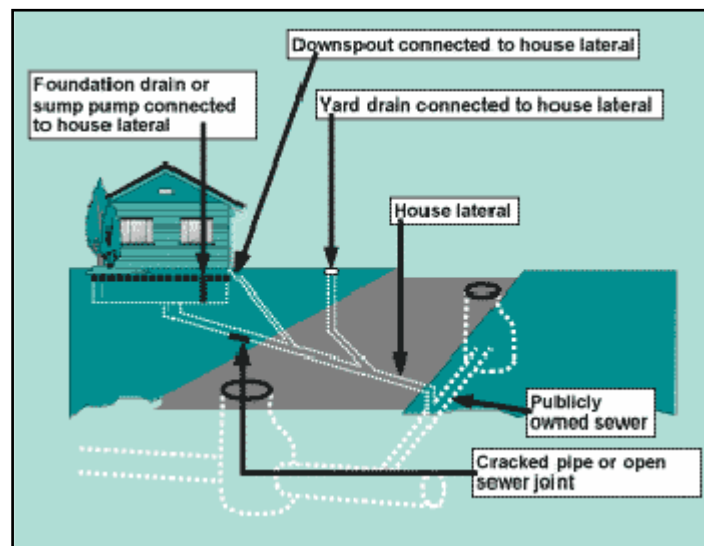


# FAQ: Inflow and Infiltration

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## Q: Where does Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) come from?

I/I comes from many sources. It may enter the wastewater system through rain leaders, sump pumps or foundation drains that are connected to the sewer lines (illegal in Minnesota since 1968). I/I has also been traced to cracked or broken private and municipal pipes (e.g., from the house to the street or down the streets), and to cross connections that allow stormwater into the sanitary sewer.



## Q: What can cities do about I/I?

Many cities have found they can achieve the fastest I/I reduction by inspecting private systems for broken service pipes, passive drain tiles and sump pumps that discharge to the sanitary system, and then requiring prompt correction of violations. Recently, some cities, including Forest Lake, have implemented successful programs based on this model.

## Q: How will non-metered connections help fund I/I reduction?

Most individual communities govern non-metered connections through inter-community agreements. Those communities may want to amend their agreements, to incorporate a share of I/I costs and assure consistent treatment and rates to all properties within a metershed.

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## Q: How should a city fund I/I reduction?

Cities must determine the best funding model for their constituents. Possibilities include:

- Surcharges and rebates
- Stormwater utility fees
- Property taxes to support some city costs
- Ordinances that require property owners to obtain compliance certificates by a deadline or upon sale of their properties

## Q: What does the ‘high risk of increase’ mark mean to communities listed on the projected surcharge table?

In addition to analyzing recent events, Metropolitan Council staff prepared projections based on hypothetical 25-year storm events and community flows. High-risk communities are those where these projections led staff to expect impacts twice those shown on the table. **Surcharges and demand charges will not be based on projections.** Because each community will be required to fix its I/I problems, regardless of Council surcharges, the high-risk designation is provided to alert communities to the magnitude of the problem.

## Q: Will CSO costs earn credits against I/I surcharges?

Yes, any project that effectively removes clear water from the sanitary sewer system can receive credit against the surcharge. If a project is implemented partially to reduce I/I and partially for other purposes, the community should estimate the share of project funds spent to correct I/I and apply for credits on that share. However, even a community that avoids all surcharges must still effectively eliminate all excess I/I to avoid facing demand charges in 2013.

## Q: My community’s costs are excessive. How can I get an adjustment?

While costs are assigned based on regional estimates, the Council has established an appeal process that will consider the results of **engineering** studies that can demonstrate how a city can fix its I/I for less. Regardless of Council surcharges, the community will retain responsibility for fixing I/I and will face demand charges in 2013 if the program is not successful.

## Q: Where can I get more information?

The full I/I program handbook is available online at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/ProjectTeams/I-I-Home.htm>

For flow issues, call Don Bluhm at 651-602-1116.

For financial questions, contact Jason Willett at 651-602-1196.

Pub. 14-05-067 October 2005