

 <p>CITY OF <b>SAN JOSE</b> CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY</p> <p><i>Planning, Building and Code Enforcement</i></p>	P-002 – BUILDING DIVISION DIRECTIVE	AUGUST 20,2025
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Building Sewer Backwater Valves</h2>		

Chapter 7 of the California 2022 Plumbing Code sets forth the requirements for Building Sewer. Due to experiences off wastewater intrusion to buildings from public or private sewer mains in the City of San Jose, this directive augments CPC section 710 and defines when the building sewer shall be protected from backflow of sewage by installing a backwater valve.

The design and installation of building sewer shall comply with the following:

1. Where a plumbing fixture is installed on a floor level that is less than one foot above the next upstream manhole cover of the public or private sewer, the sanitary drainage shall be protected from backflow of sewage by installing an approved type of backwater valve. Fixtures on floor levels above such elevations shall not discharge through the backwater valve in new construction installations.
2. Items used to verify the requirement for backwater valve shall be a civil plan with finished floor elevations within the structure along with the finished elevation of upstream and downstream sanitary sewer manholes.
3. Items 1 and 2 above shall apply when installing, replacing, or altering a building sewer.