

After a Drought and Then Flash Floods, Aurora Plumber Warns of Sewer Line Damage Before the Ground Freezes

Superior Mile High Plumbing explains how months of parched, cracked soil followed by August's back-to-back flash floods created the classic conditions for sewer line failure and basement backups, and why inspection now beats an emergency in January.



Aurora, Colorado Sep 6, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Aurora homeowners have lived through both extremes of the water story this year, and Superior Mile High Plumbing, an Aurora-based plumbing service provider, is warning that the sequence itself is what puts underground sewer lines at risk. Months of drought that shrank and cracked the soil, followed by the intense flash flooding of mid-August, produced exactly the conditions that plumbers associate with sewer line breaks and basement backups. With ground freeze weeks away, the company is urging homeowners to have lines inspected now, while repairs can still be made without excavating frozen earth.

The August storms were severe. On August 15, the National Weather Service warned of life-threatening flash flooding across eastern Denver and northwestern Aurora as 1.5 to 3 inches of rain fell in roughly 45 minutes, with water flowing a foot deep at Quincy and Smoky Hill Road in southeast Aurora. Toll Gate Creek, Sand Creek, Cherry Creek, and Murphy Creek were all named in the warning. Days earlier, on

August 13, storms had already pushed rainfall rates past an inch an hour across the southern metro and out to Aurora. That weekend, flooding in the Expo Park neighborhood damaged homes and flooded a school badly enough to delay its opening.

What made those storms particularly hard on sewer infrastructure was what came before them. Aurora entered the summer under Stage 1 drought restrictions after a dry winter, and by August the clay soil common across the city had spent months drying and contracting.

"Dry clay pulls away from pipes and opens up cracks, and that's when tree roots move in looking for moisture," said Hector Frias-Chavarria of Superior Mile High Plumbing. "Then the ground gets hammered with three inches of rain in under an hour. All that water goes straight into the same cracks the roots already widened. That's inflow and infiltration, and it's the textbook setup for a sewer backup. The line held up fine through the dry months because there was nothing pushing on it. The flood is what finds the weak spot."

Inflow and infiltration is the term for groundwater and stormwater entering a sewer line through cracks, failed joints, and root intrusions. During saturation events, water that should never enter the line floods it from the outside, overwhelming its capacity and pushing sewage back toward the lowest drain in the house. In Aurora, that drain is almost always in the basement.

The risk is sharpest in the city's older neighborhoods. In areas like Highpoint in south Aurora, where much of the housing stock dates to the early 1980s, sewer laterals may be original clay or cast iron approaching or past their expected service life. Many of those homes have finished basements, which turns a backup from an unpleasant cleanup into a loss involving flooring, drywall, and furnishings.

Superior Mile High Plumbing notes that a sewer camera inspection is the only way to know a line's actual condition. Video inspection reveals cracks, offsets, root intrusion, and collapsed sections that produce no symptoms until the next saturation event. Where the scope shows a break, repair or replacement can be scheduled on the homeowner's terms. Where it shows a line in sound condition, the homeowner has an answer rather than a worry.

Timing is the company's central point. Once the ground freezes, sewer repair becomes significantly more difficult and more expensive, and a line that fails in January is repaired under emergency conditions with excavation through frozen soil. The window between now and the first hard freeze is when a problem revealed by August's floods can be addressed as planned work.

Warning signs that a line has already been compromised include drains that run slower than they did before the storms, gurgling from toilets or floor drains, sewage odors indoors or in the yard, and wet or sunken patches along the lateral's path.

Superior Mile High Plumbing provides sewer line inspection, repair, and replacement, drain cleaning, and water heater repair and installation throughout Aurora and the Denver metro area. The company operates 24 hours a day with licensed and insured technicians and focuses on permanent repairs and transparent pricing.

Aurora homeowners who want their sewer line inspected before winter can contact Superior Mile High Plumbing at (303) 304-0784 or visit superiormilehighplumbing.com.

About Superior Mile High Plumbing

Superior Mile High Plumbing provides residential plumbing services throughout Aurora and the Denver

metropolitan area, specializing in sewer line inspection and repair, drain cleaning, and water heater services. The company focuses on permanent repairs built for Colorado's plumbing challenges.

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