

City of Thomasville
Maintenance and Construction Division Standard Operating Guidelines:
Sewer Clean Out Locating

City employees may spend a period of time of up to 30 minutes in attempting to locate a clean out either within or near the edge of the public right-of-way using a locator, probing rod, shovel, or other small hand held tool.

If the clean out cannot be located within the 30 minute time frame, then the customer is responsible for locating and exposing the clean out or sewer service at the edge of the public right-of-way or sewer easement for a city crew to then install a clean out at a scheduled time. Customer also has the option of paying a licensed plumber to install the clean out for city use at customer's expense.

If the clean out cannot be located within the 30 minute time frame and the city crews have checked the nearest available manholes both upstream and downstream on the main line that the customer's service is suspected to connect to and confirmed clear, unobstructed flow in the main line, then the customer is responsible for calling a plumber to check service from the structure.

City crews are not to use private clean outs for jetting/clearing of obstructions.

All city owned clean outs shall be located within or at the edge of the public right-of-way, in basic alignment with other utility devices such as meter boxes, telephone poles, and electrical transformers.

The city does not locate private sewer lines on private property.

As a best practice, clean out access pipes for use by public crews should extend above ground level by approximately 9"-12" so that they are easily visible, easily located, and will not be decapitated by lawn mowers. Vegetation or objects should not be placed around or over a clean out pipe so as to obstruct view of, or access by, public crews.

