

# FIXING THE DAMAGE

If your house service sewer pipes have been blocked by roots, you will need to get a licensed plumber to clear them.

As well as removing the roots, you should consider fixing the damage in a way which will minimise future problems.

If you stop roots from re-entering your pipes, you will save yourself the expense of having to keep on clearing them. You will also protect the environment by keeping stormwater out of the sewer.

To fix the problem, you should ask the plumber to estimate where the blockage is located.

Your plumber can then dig to remove the roots and concrete around the pipe to stop them from entering again.

In more extreme cases, it may be necessary to replace or relocate the pipe.

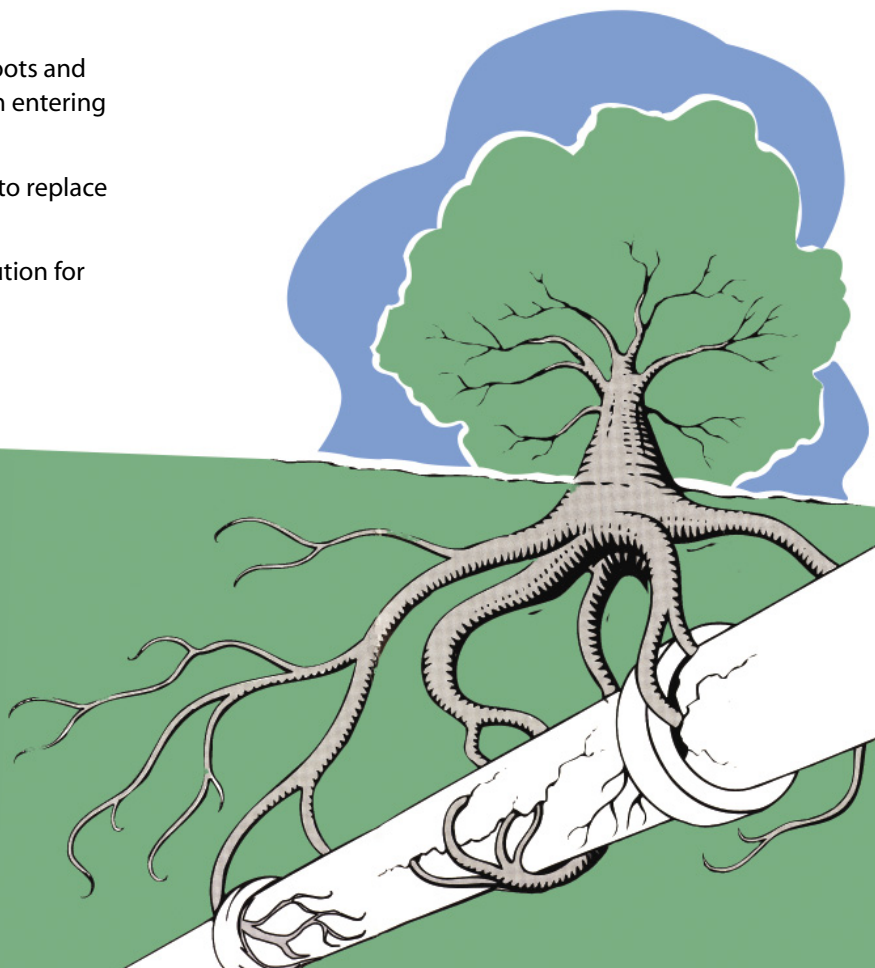
Your plumber can recommend the best solution for your particular problem.

# KEEPING PLANT ROOTS OUT OF YOUR SEWER

For more information, contact:

**Shoalhaven  
Water**  
A Group of Shoalhaven City Council

Phone (02) 4429 3244



# BEWARE THE HIDDEN INTRUDER

A plant's roots supply it with the food and water it needs to survive. However, problems will occur if a plant discovers its next meal is hidden in either your house's or Council's sewer pipes.

Roots can damage pipes, obstruct the flow and eventually cause a blockage.

Root damage can also let stormwater into the pipes. During heavy rain, this extra water can overload the sewerage system, causing it to overflow into our waterways and pollute the environment.

If a problem occurs in your private sewer, it is your responsibility to have it fixed.

## AVOIDING DAMAGE TO THE SEWER

Root damage can be reduced by avoiding plant species which are likely to cause problems, and planting trees far enough away from the pipes.

Before planting a tree, you should first find out where the sewer pipes are located so that you can stay well clear of them.

Many home owners have a plan of their property which shows the location of sewerage pipes and other plumbing. If you don't, you can get one from Shoalhaven City Council – Development Services Division.

Next, you should consult your nursery or gardening guide to find out how large the tree or shrub will grow. Then you can work out how far the plant's roots will travel. They will usually extend about one and a half times the distance of the adult plant's branches.

