

# QUEENS NEWS

## EDITORIAL

### It doesn't smell right

Add to the long list of things that are too good to be true: The fiberglass sewer liner.

The liners are represented as a fast, inexpensive solution for leaky sewer lines, but the fastest thing about them is the disappearance of a homeowner's cash.

The inexpensive part isn't true either, as a recent article in Queens News by Brendan Brosh ("Sewer lining is gold for scam artists," Oct. 21) chronicled.

Whatever the initial installation costs — and the people who deal in sewer liners are prone to charging what the traffic will bear — the liners often lead to bigger costs. They reduce the internal size of the pipes, cutting down flow and often creating more problems than they solve, problems that can be expensive to correct. They are also illegal in the five boroughs, so a homeowner who installs them could be penalized by the city.

Some of the sewer-liner salesmen use fancy video-equipped sewer snakes to put a high-tech gloss on an old-fashioned flim-flam. One homeowner who narrowly escaped the clutches of a sewer-liner scam artist compared the video images to a colonoscopy: "You don't know what you're looking at. He says it looks bad and you need a sewer liner, and that sounds reasonable."

The moral of the story is that sewer repairs are serious business and should be handled by licensed plumbers. It is cheaper in the long run.

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