

Proper Use of Residential Sewers

Drain Etiquette

DON'T THROW MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN!



**You own and pay for your sewer.
Take good care of it.**

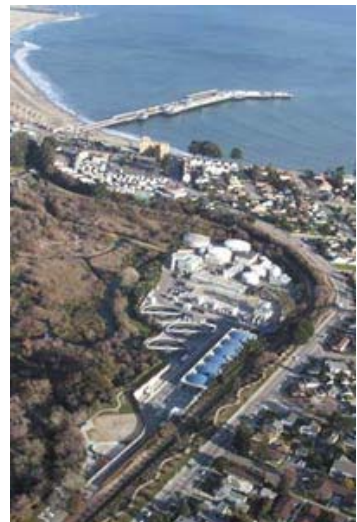


Whether your home is two blocks or 20 miles from the water, it has two connections to the Monterey Bay. Indoor drains such as sinks,

toilets, and most floor drains convey wastewater through the sanitary sewer system to a treatment plant where the water is treated before it is discharged into the Bay. Outside your home, rainwater, wash water from buildings, road surfaces, vehicles, and equipment pick up oil, grease, cleaning compounds, pesticides, paint, garbage and other pollutants. Storm drains carry these pollutants through the storm drain system directly into local creeks and the Bay. They are not filtered or treated in any way.

By paying your sewer service charges, you are paying for maintenance and improvement of your sewer, and for proper treatment of wastewater before it is released to the ocean. Anything you put down the household drain must make its way through a series of pipes and pumps to the treatment plant and then out to the ocean outfall. Take proper care to ensure that what you put down your drain won't result in additional maintenance costs, sanitary sewer spills, or even significant reconstruction costs for damages.

This brochure will explain what you can and cannot put down the drain. Please be sure to follow these guidelines to avoid costly increases in sewer service charges or a sewage spill.



GREASE

Keep our Sewers Fat-Free!

When fats, oils, and grease make their way into sewer lines, they can cause sewage overflows and backups. This can result in overflowing sewers in your home or neighborhood, potential contact with disease-causing organisms, and an increase in operation and maintenance costs. All of this contributes to higher sewer bills for the public.

What you can do to help:

- DO NOT PUSH LARGE AMOUNTS OF FOOD INTO YOUR GARBAGE DISPOSAL.
- AFTER MEALS, SCRAPE FOOD FROM PLATES INTO THE GARBAGE, COMPOSTING IS PREFERRED.
- POUR FATS, OILS, AND GREASE FROM COOKING INTO A CONTAINER, PUT A LID ON IT, FREEZE IT, AND PLACE IT IN YOUR GARBAGE.

Your cooperation will have the following benefits:

- REDUCE MAINTENANCE COSTS OF SEWER SYSTEM.
- REDUCE OVERFLOWS OF RAW SEWAGE.
- HELP TO KEEP MONTEREY BAY AND OUR OCEAN CLEAN.

Grease Design material courtesy of the Cities of Pacific Grove and Monterey and the Pebble Beach Community Services District in partnership with the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency.

Sanitary sewer pipe constricted with grease and solids

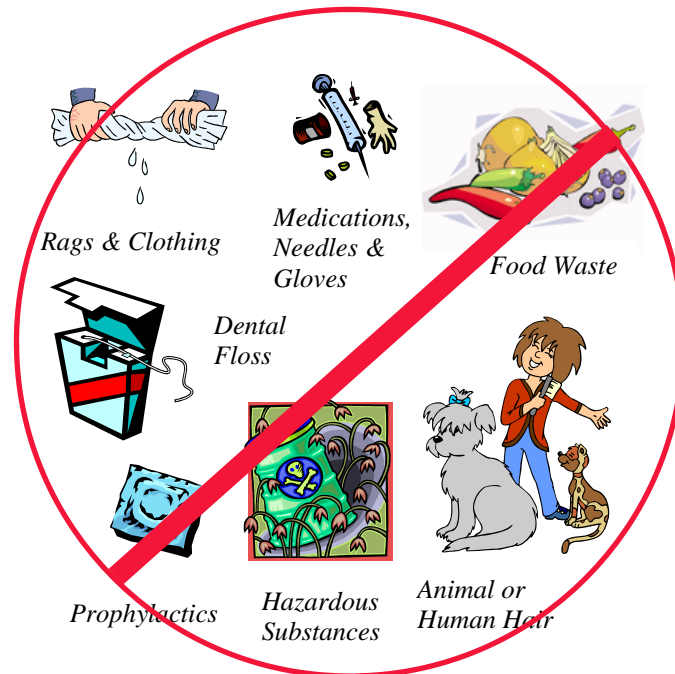
ENEMIES OF THE SEWER

Solids such as food waste, hair, dental floss, clothing, rags, wipes, diapers, birth control products, cat litter, and feminine products can clog up sewer lines and reduce the life span of sewage pumps.

BE SURE TO PUT SOLIDS WHERE THEY BELONG- IN THE COMPOST, TRASH, OR LANDFILL.

Keep flammable substances, medications, and other chemicals out of the sewer as they could create an explosive atmosphere or pose a threat to worker safety. Take them to a household hazardous waste drop-off site.*

See below for some common enemies of your sewer system:



Environmentally Responsible Painting

Cleaning up after painting generates wastes that need to be properly managed. Other wastes are generated from the painting process as well. The following waste management practices are recommended:

Latex (water-based) paint:

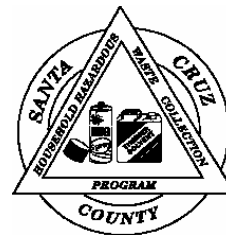
Soak paint brushed and other paint equipment in a bucket. Allow solids to settle to the bottom of the bucket. Decant off the water on the top and pour down a household drain to the sanitary sewer. Allow solids to dry and then place in trash.

Solvent-based paint:

All wastes from cleaning of painting equipment using solvent-based paint must be collected and disposed of as a hazardous waste. You may drop off up to 15-gallons of hazardous waste per visit at household hazardous waste drop-off facilities* throughout the County.

Excess paint:

Excess paint, both latex and solvent, is a hazardous waste and must be disposed of at a household hazardous waste drop-off facility*.



***Household Hazardous Waste Hotline (831) 454-2606**



GOT A CLOG?



CLEAR IT!

Caustic chemicals such as lye, liquid plumbing products, or bleach do more damage to your pipes than to a clog.

These chemicals only partially clean the line and will require periodic reuse, which can get costly. Use mechanical means to clear a clog such as snaking the line or using a plunger. This will prevent damage to your private and public sewer lines and will be a better and cheaper long-term solution.

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