

Connections

July/August 2020



You Can Make a Difference, Part 2: Start in the Kitchen

This series explores how your actions can make a difference and help preserve the health of our rivers and streams. Pollutants found in the wastewater are often introduced in the home. As we work our way through the house, we'll highlight positive steps you can take.

Actions You Can Take ...

Learn what's in your cleaning products

Surprisingly, many cleaning agents contain **phosphorus, nitrogen** and **ammonia**, which are commonly used for degreasing and disinfecting. In fact, many dish detergents contain 30–40% phosphorus! But these elements are costly to remove from wastewater before it can be safely discharged back into the environment, where they can cause problems such as toxic algal blooms. **The best way to keep them out of local waterways and maintain low utility costs is to reduce their use at home.**



Consider alternatives

Look for the EPA Safer Choice label, which indicates the product meets standards for low aquatic toxicity, as well as tests for effectiveness: www.epa.gov/saferchoice.

Purchasing products that are safer for people, animals and the environment doesn't have to be more expensive.



Consider buying in bulk or highly concentrated formulas where a little goes a long way.

No grease or grit down the drain

What we do at home really makes a difference! As more people are cooking at home, grease loadings in the system have increased. When fats, oils, grease and grit (FOGG) wash down the sink, they stick to the insides of pipes and trap other materials such as wipes.

Follow these tips to help avoid costly maintenance hassles from clogged pipes.

Bin the grit

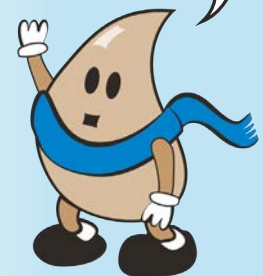
Keep coffee grounds, egg shells and other food waste out of your disposal.

Catch food scraps with baskets or strainers in sink drains and throw scraps in the trash.

Freeze the grease

Pour fats, oils and grease into a can and put it in the trash. The District offers a free kit to help.

Get your free kit today, to keep our sewer system flowing!



www.crwwd.com/pollution-prevention/grease

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Weekends
and Holidays

Emergency?

Call 24/7:
360-750-5876

Commissioners

Norm Harker
Denny Kiggins
Neil Kimsey

General Manager

John M. Peterson

Visit us online at www.CRWWD.com



Service update: The District continues to provide services 24/7. Some services, including public access to the office, may continue to be impacted while we work to return to normal operations. The District will adjust as needed to comply with state and federal guidelines. Customers experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact customer service at (360) 750-5876 x601.

Talk about what we put down the drain!

I enjoy working with residents and businesses to reduce pollution. My role is to help customers make healthy and safe choices and talk with them about proper disposal options for household products. I like to focus on what happens before wastewater enters the treatment system because individual actions add up to meaningful change.



*Kristen Thomas,
Pretreatment
Coordinator*

Low-income senior discount program

Applications are now being accepted for new participants. Contact customer service or go online for more information. This year's program begins August 1. All current participants are automatically re-enrolled for 2020-21.

www.bit.ly/CRWWDseniorprogram.

District campus improvements

The District has broken ground on construction of a new operations building. The improvements will position the District to meet the region's growing need for wastewater services.

The District benefitted from a favorable bidding climate, with bids coming in below the estimate. The project is scheduled to be complete in 2022.



District campus construction

DIY water-friendly cleaning

Here are a few staple ingredients for making your own cleaning products at home.



Uses:

Soften water, remove soil, oil and grease

Alternatives:

Vinegar, lemon juice (degreases, shines)

Castile soap (cleans, degreases)

Baking soda (degreases, antimicrobial)

Dishwasher detergent recipe: To reduce your use of phosphorous at home, make your own dishwasher detergent! Simply mix 1 cup liquid castile soap and 1 cup water. Use this to fill the main detergent compartment. Then fill the rinse-aid compartment (opens separately) with white vinegar. Simple!

There are many resources online for making your own cleaners. The recipe above and others can be found at:

www.bit.ly/greatlist_springcleaning.

FROG & the F.O.G.G.

