

Connections

May/June 2026



P is for Prevention: 6 things to keep out of your wastewater

Everything you flush or put down your drain matters. Limiting your use and proper disposal of these 6 Ps will help keep them out of the Columbia River and the environment. While our treatment process does a good job removing pollutants, sanitizing bacteria and filtering out larger items, such as tampons and wipes, it can't remove microscopic particles like parabens and microplastics.

This article is part of our new series, with each issue focusing on one of the 6 Ps. We'll explain what they are, why it matters and what you can do to limit your exposure and limit the impact to our environment.

The 6 Ps

1. MicroPlastics
2. Pesticides
3. Pet Waste
4. Prescriptions
5. Parabens & Phthalates
6. PFAS

MicroPlastics

What are they?

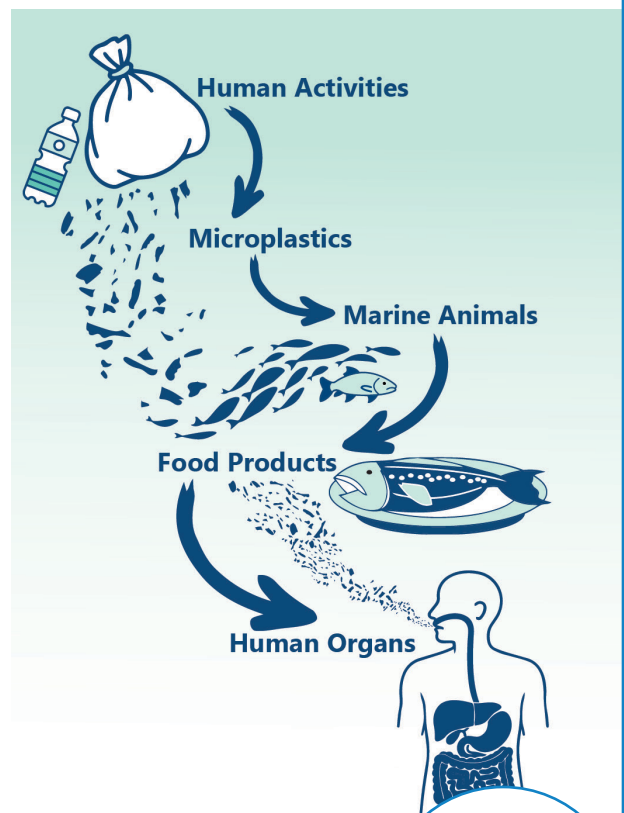
Microplastics are tiny plastic particles—smaller than 5 millimeters—that come from broken-down plastic products, synthetic fabrics, glitter, and even personal care items like face scrubs or toothpaste.

Why it matters

Scientists have found microplastics nearly everywhere, particularly in lakes, rivers and aquatic animals. According to the US Geological Survey, microplastics can pose a danger to fish, animals and humans that ingest them, and some additives in plastic particles have been associated with cancer and other diseases.

Due to the small size of microplastics, wastewater treatment plants can't filter them out. These particles found in the wastewater can end up in the Columbia River, where they may be eaten by fish and other wildlife, potentially landing on our plates.

(Continued on back)



Hours of Operation

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

Emergency?

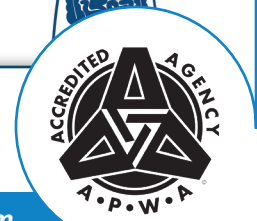
Call 24/7:
360-750-5876

Commissioners

Norm Harker
Denny Kiggins
Dan Clark

General Manager

John M. Peterson, P.E.



Visit us online at www.CRWWD.com

Did you know?

The average household generates about 200 gallons of wastewater each day. We're working to ensure our system has enough capacity for our growing community. We estimate the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant has about 8-10 years before it reaches capacity and the next phase of upgrades must be completed.

All about wasteWATER quality: Flow



Wastewater flows through a primary clarifier at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant

Before treated wastewater, called effluent, is discharged to the Columbia River, the District monitors, samples and tests it to ensure it's safe for the environment and in compliance with regulatory permits. The effluent is tested against strict state standards for many different parameters. Each month, we're sharing a little bit about one of these parameters so you can better understand our process and have confidence that the effluent is being treated to the highest standards.

Flow: Flow measures the amount of wastewater moving through the treatment plant on a daily basis. It's measured in MGD (millions of gallons per day). Measuring flow is important because it helps us ensure the different processes in the plant are operating within their limits. Monitoring flow also helps us plan for future improvements to increase capacity.

Current capacity: 17.5 MGD

Average flow: 8-10 MGD



Calendar of Events

May 16
Hazel Dell Parade
of Bands
[hdscba.org/
parade-of-bands](http://hdscba.org/parade-of-bands)

June 6
Fire District 6
Open House
Station 63,
Salmon Creek

MicroPlastics, cont.

What you can do:

- Swap plastic for stainless steel or glass wherever possible, particularly for water bottles, coffee cups and food storage containers.
- Choose natural fabrics such as cotton or linen over synthetics like polyester or nylon.
- Use a laundry filter bag or ball to catch fibers when washing synthetic clothing like leggings or waterproof jackets.
- Replace your plastic cooking tools: Opt for a wooden cutting board; stainless steel, cast-iron, glass or ceramic cookware; and wooden, stainless steel or silicone utensils.
- Reduce single-use plastics like water bottles and take-out containers as much as possible and follow your local recycling guidelines.

Learn more about microplastics in our waterways:

bit.ly/4bMWpz9

Scan the QR code or enter the URL above.

