

Connections

July/August 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

Pesticides

What are they?

Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides and fungicides used in gardens, lawns, and homes to kill weeds and pests.

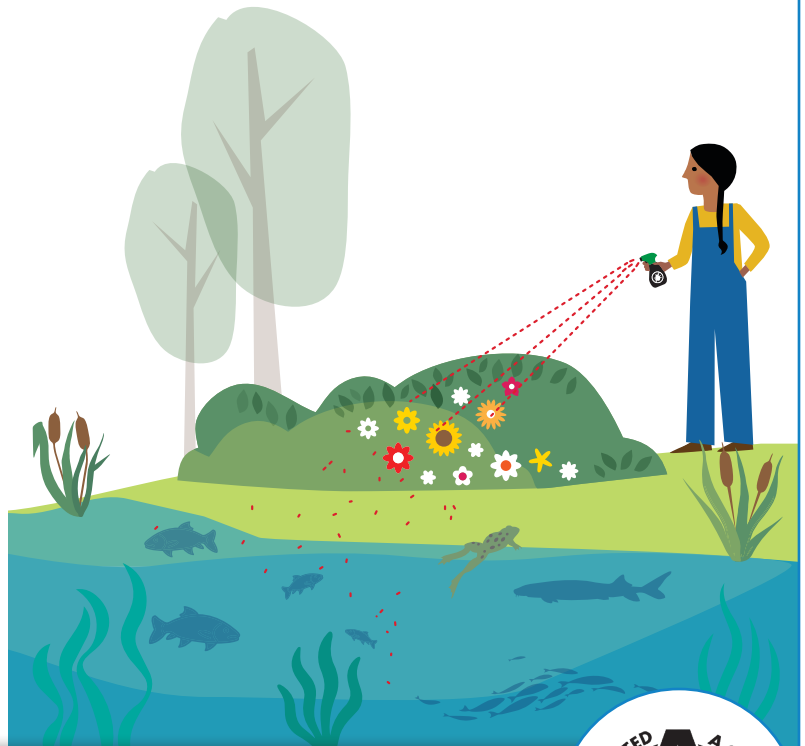
Why it matters:

When it rains or when plants sprayed with pesticides are watered, pesticides can end up in our waterways. Pesticides are toxic to aquatic life and are hard to remove during treatment, meaning they can persist in rivers and groundwater.

What you can do:

- **Never pour leftover pesticides down the drain**—take them to a household hazardous waste collection site.

(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 temperature of wastewater is about 60-70 degrees, and the temperature of the Columbia River averages about 50-70 degrees, depending on the season.

All about wasteWATER quality: Temperature

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.

Temperature: At the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant, we measure and report effluent temperature every day. It's important that the water released into the Columbia River isn't too warm. We have done extensive modeling and invested in a new outfall to ensure that we're keeping fish, plants and other species safe.

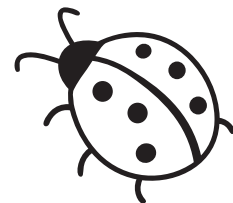
Senior low-income discount

Are you 62 or older and live in your home year-round? You may qualify for a low-income discount on your bill. Currently, this program supports about 300 households at a cost of approximately 75 cents/year to all District customers. Contact us today to find out if you qualify.

The new annual guidelines and discounts begin August 1. For more information call 360-993-4001 or visit: crwwd.com/senior-discount.

Pesticides, cont.

- **Avoid rinsing items containing pesticides** in the sink.
- **Use pesticides sparingly**—only when truly needed. If you must use pesticides, try to target your application to just the plants you want to kill. Avoid spraying when it's windy or before it rains.
- **Consider weed killer alternatives:** Spraying a mixture of vinegar, salt and soap; pouring boiling water (carefully!); mulching/covering with cardboard; or pulling weeds by hand or with tools.
- **Choose natural or organic pest control methods.** These can include diatomaceous earth, neem oil, introducing pests' natural predators (such as ladybugs for an aphid infestation), soapy water, baking soda or citrus peels.



District staff at the 2026 Kline Kids Fishing event

Calendar of Events

July 4
4th of July
Celebration
Downtown
Ridgefield

**Jul. 22–
Aug. 19**
Write from the
Start school
supply drive

Aug. 4
National
Night Out
Abrams Park,
Ridgefield