

Connections

September/October 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

Pet Waste

What is it?

Poop and pee from any pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits and other animals such as hamsters or reptiles.

Why it matters:

When this waste is flushed, it goes to our wastewater treatment plants. Our system is designed to handle human waste, not pet waste. Dog and cat poop may seem "natural," but pet waste is full of bacteria, pathogens, viruses and parasites (including salmonella, giardia and E. coli).

What you can do:

- **Always pick up after your pet**, even in your own yard. If your pet goes outside, make sure to clean it up as soon as possible. This helps keep our waterways clean.
- **Bag it and toss it in the trash**—don't flush it or compost it. However, you can and should use biodegradable or compostable bags.
- **Keep litter boxes clean and throw old litter in the garbage.**



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



Clark County 2026 residential sewer rate comparison

The District is committed to maintaining competitive rates while providing the highest quality of services. In 2026, the District's residential monthly sewer base rate remains one of the lowest in Clark County and is far below the average rate in Western Washington.

Data based on 6 ccf/mo water use, includes applicable taxes. To see the full table, visit: crwwd.com/rates

Typical Monthly Sewer Bill	
Vancouver	\$46.68
District	\$48.00
Ridgefield	\$61.60
Camas	\$62.53
Battle Ground	\$70.09
La Center	\$79.20
Washougal	\$86.49

2026 budget planning

The District is preparing to develop its 2027 budget. The annual budget planning process includes setting sewer rates and establishing both the annual operating and capital budgets. Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate in the upcoming public meetings:

- Budget work sessions:
Oct. 20 & 27, Nov. 10
- Budget public hearing: Dec. 8
- Board action on FY 2027 budget: Dec. 22

Learn more at crwwd.com/financials

All about wasteWATER quality: Fecal Coliform

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.

Fecal coliform is a group of bacteria found in feces of people and wildlife. While fecal coliforms in water may not be directly harmful, and do not necessarily mean feces are present, they serve as an indicator for other things that can cause disease. The Salmon Creek Treatment Plant disinfects the wastewater effluent with UV light as part of its process to protect public health and meet Washington Department of Ecology's strict standards for fecal coliform bacteria. We measure, test, and report fecal levels every day to ensure compliance.

Free Leaf Disposal Coupon

Prevent street flooding—**never** blow or place leaves in the street.



Vancouver and Clark County residents only

Valid October 1 – December 31, 2026

Present this coupon at a participating drop-off location for up to 5 cubic yards of **leaves only**. No bags, trimmings, yard debris or mixed loads accepted.

Complete the following information:

Name: _____

Street address: _____ ZIP: _____

City of Vancouver residents: Funding for this program is provided through your garbage rates.

Clark County residents: Funding for this program is provided through Clark County Public Works.

Drop-off locations:

Loads must be covered and secured. Call ahead to verify operating hours.

City Bark

2419 N.E. Andresen Rd., Vancouver, WA
360-253-8461

McFarlane's Bark

8806 N.E. 117th Ave., Vancouver, WA
360-892-6125

West Van Materials Recovery Center

6601 N.W. Old Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA | 360-737-1727

H&H Wood Recyclers

8401 N.E. 117th Ave., Vancouver, WA
360-892-2805

Triangle Resources

612 S.E. Union Street, Camas, WA
360-834-7253