

7. Information on What You and Your Community Can Do to Use Water More Efficiently

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For more information on what you and your community can do to use water more efficiently, contact:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

For more information on pollution prevention programs at U.S. EPA, contact:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Pollution Prevention
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

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Environmental Protection Agency
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Preventing Pollution Through Efficient Water Use

- How Efficient Water Use Helps Prevent Pollution
- What Individuals Can Do
- What Communities Can Do

How Efficient Water Use Helps Prevent Pollution

Using water more efficiently can help prevent pollution as well as protect and conserve our finite water resources. More efficient water use by you and your community has many other benefits.

Fewer Pollutants

Using less water reduces the amount of waste-water discharged into our lakes, streams, rivers, and marine waters.

The amount of pollutants wastewater carries can also be reduced, as treatment efficiency improves.

Recycled process water can reduce pollutants from industry.

More efficient irrigation can minimize runoff of agricultural pollutants and reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Protection of Aquatic Habitats

- Building fewer and smaller new water projects can help preserve wetlands, which naturally treat pollutants.
- Diverting less water preserves more stream flow to maintain a healthy aquatic environment.

Protection of Drinking Water Sources

- Less pumping of groundwater lowers the chance that pollutants will be drawn into a water supply well.
- With less water use, septic system performance can improve, reducing the risk of groundwater contamination.
- Highest quality water sources are preserved for drinking water by using treated wastewater for other uses.

Energy Conservation

- Efficient water use means less power needed to pump and treat water and wastewater.
- Less water use reduces the amount of energy required for heating hot water.
- Less energy demand results in fewer harmful by-products from power plants.

Other Reasons to Use Water Wisely

Preventing pollution is only one reason why using water efficiently makes sense. Here are a few more:

Money Saved

- Less water use results in fewer pumping and treatment costs.
- Saving money on water and wastewater operations frees money for meeting water quality, public health and water treatment goals.
- Water saved is also energy, and money, saved for you and your community.

Improved Reliability

- Water conservation provides a hedge against drought impacts.
- Improving water efficiency may be quicker and cheaper than developing a new supply.
- Reduced water use may extend the life of your water or wastewater facility.

or

- Reduced water use may increase the efficiency of wastewater treatment, and reduce overflows during storms.
- Communities which use water efficiently are better prepared to cope with effects of possible future climate change.

What Individuals Can Do

More efficient water use begins with individuals, in the home and place of work. Taking these and other steps, and encouraging others to do so, makes good economic as well as environmental sense.

In: The Home

- Install a toilet dam or plastic bottle in your toilet tank.
- Install a water-efficient showerhead (2.5 gallons or less per minute).
- When you buy a new toilet, purchase a low flow model (1.6 gallons or less per flush).

Outdoors

- Water in the morning or evening to minimize evaporation.
- Install a drip-irrigation watering system for valuable plants.
- Use drought-tolerant plants and grasses for landscaping, and reduce grass-covered areas.

At Work or School

- Adopt the same water-saving habits that are effective at home.
- Ask about installing water-efficient equipment and reducing outdoor water use.
- Encourage employers to explore the use of recycled "gray-water" or reclaimed wastewater.

What Communities Can Do

A water supplier or wastewater system operator (public or private) has cost-effective options to process and deliver water more efficiently. A community can do the same, and can foster ways to use water wisely.

Not all of these steps are expensive. The best choices vary by region and by community, start by asking if these are appropriate where you live and work.

A Water Supplier or Wastewater Processor Can:

- Identify who uses water, and reduce unaccounted for water use.
- Find and repair leaking pipes.

- Consider a new pricing scheme which encourages conservation.
- Reduce excess pressure in water lines.
- Explore the reuse of treated wastewater for uses other than drinking water.
- Charge hookup fees which encourage more efficient water use in new buildings.
- Build water efficiency into future demand projections, facility planning, and drought planning.

A Community Can:

- Adopt plumbing and building codes that require water-efficient equipment and practices.
- Adopt a water-efficient landscaping ordinance to reduce the water used for golf courses and commercial landscapes.
- Retrofit older buildings with water-efficient equipment, starting with public buildings.
- Reduce municipal water use for landscaping and other uses.

8. Sewage Spill Reference Guide

Sewage Spill Regulatory Requirements

Allowing sewage to discharge to a gutter or storm drain may subject you to penalties and/or out-of-pocket costs to reimburse cities or public agencies for clean-up efforts.

Here are the pertinent codes, fines, and agency contact information that apply.

Orange County Stormwater Program
24 Hour Water Pollution Reporting Hotline
(714) 567-6363

- County and city water quality ordinances prohibit discharges containing pollutants.

**Orange County Health Care Agency
Environmental Health**
(714) 667-3600

California Health and Safety Code, Sections 5410-5416

- No person shall discharge raw or treated sewage or other waste in a manner that results in contamination, pollution, or a nuisance.
- Any person who causes or permits a sewage discharge to any state waters:
 - must immediately notify the local health agency of the discharge.
 - shall reimburse the local health agency for services that protect the public's health and safety (water-contact receiving waters).
- who fails to provide the required notice to the local health agency is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine (between \$500--\$1,000) and/or imprisonment for less than one year.

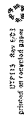
**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region San Diego Region**
(909) 782-4130 (858) 467-2952

- Requires the prevention, mitigation, response to and reporting of sewage spills.

California Office of Emergency Services
(800) 852-7550

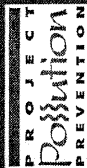
California Water Code, Article 4, Chapter 4, Sections 13266-13271
California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9.2, Article 2,
Sections 2250-2260

- Any person who causes or permits sewage in excess of 1,000 gallons to be discharged to state waters shall immediately notify the Office of Emergency Services.
- Any person who fails to provide the notice required by this section or of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine (less than \$2,000) and/or imprisonment for not more than one year.



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Sewage Spill Reference Guide



www.ocwatersheds.com



Health Care Agency
Environmental Health



Your Responsibility as a Private Property Owner



This brochure was designed courtesy
of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSDB).
For additional information, call (714) 962-2411
or visit their website at www.ocsdb.com

What is a Sewage Spill?

Sewage spills occur when the wastewater being transported via underground pipes overflows through a manhole, cleanout, or broken pipe. Sewage spills can cause health hazards, damage to homes and businesses, and threaten the environment, local waterways, and beaches.

Common Causes of Sewage Spills

Grease builds up inside and eventually blocks sewer pipes. Grease gets into the sewer from food establishments, household drains, as well as from poorly maintained commercial grease traps and interceptors. Grease is the most common cause of pipe blockages.

Structure problems caused by tree roots in the lines, broken/cracked pipes, missing or broken cleanout caps, or undersized sewers can cause blockages.

Infiltration and inflow (I/I) impacts pipe capacity and is caused when groundwater or rainwater enters the sewer system through pipe defects and illegal connections.

You Are Responsible for a Sewage Spill Caused by a Blockage or Break in Your Sewer Lines!

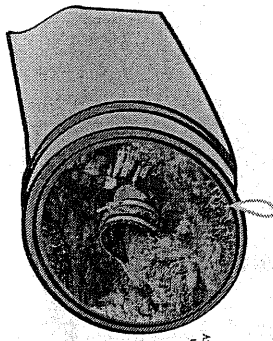
Time is of the essence in dealing with sewage spills. You are required to **immediately**:

Control and minimize the spill. Keep spills contained on private property and out of gutters, storm drains, and public waterways by shutting off or not using the water.

Use sandbags, dirt and/or plastic sheeting to prevent sewage from entering the storm drain system.

Clear the sewer blockage. Always wear gloves and wash your hands. It is recommended that a plumbing professional be called for clearing blockages and making necessary repairs.

Always notify your city sewer/public works department or public sewer district of sewage spills. If the spill enters the storm drain also notify the Health Care Agency. In addition, if it exceeds 1,000 gallons notify the Office of Emergency Services. Refer to the numbers listed in this brochure.



Overflowing
cleanout pipe
from
private property

You Could Be Liable

Allowing sewage from your home, business or property to discharge to a gutter or storm drain may subject you to penalties and/or out-of-pocket costs to reimburse cities or public agencies for clean-up and enforcement efforts. See Regulatory Codes & Fines section for pertinent codes and fines that apply.

What to Look For

Sewage spills can be a very noticeable gushing of water from a manhole or a slow water leak that may take time to be noticed. Don't dismiss unaccounted-for wet areas.

Look for:

- Drain backups inside the building.
- Wet ground and water leaking around manhole lids onto your street.
- Leaking water from cleanouts or outside drains.
- Unusual odorous wet areas: sidewalks, external walls, ground/landscape around a building.

Caution

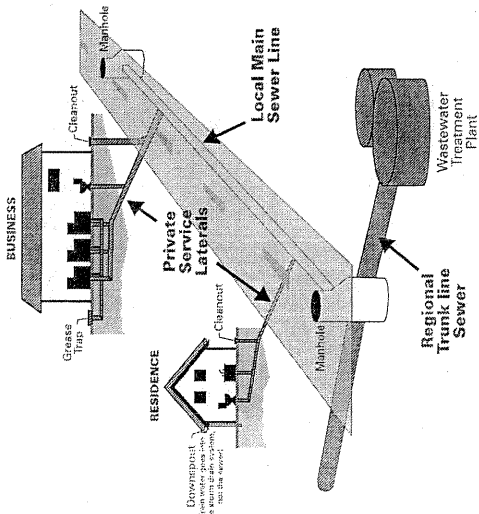
Keep people and pets away from the affected area. Untreated sewage has high levels of disease-causing viruses and bacteria. Call your local health care agency listed on the back for more information.

**If You See a Sewage Spill Occurring,
Notify Your City Sewer/Public Works
Department or Public Sewer District
IMMEDIATELY**

How a Sewer System Works

A property owner's sewer pipes are called service laterals and are connected to larger local main and regional trunk lines. Service laterals run from the connection at the public home to the connection with the public sewer (including the area under the street). These laterals are the responsibility of the property owner and must be maintained by the property owner. Many city agencies have adopted ordinances requiring maintenance of service laterals. Check with your city sewer/local public works department for more information.

Operation and maintenance of **local and regional sewer lines** are the responsibility of the city sewer/public works departments and public sewer districts.



How You Can Prevent Sewage Spills

- 1 **Never put grease down garbage disposals, drains, or toilets.**
- 2 **Perform periodic cleaning to eliminate grease, debris and roots in your service laterals.**
- 3 **Repair any structural problems in your sewer system and eliminate any rainwater infiltration/inflow leaks into your service laterals.**

Sewage spills can cause damage to the environment. Help prevent them!

Orange County Agency Responsibilities

- **City Sewer/Public Works Departments**—Responsible for protecting city property and streets, the local storm drain system, and collecting, conveying, treating, and disposing of wastewater.
- **Public Sewer/Sanitation District**—Responsible for protecting public health by collecting, conveying, treating, and disposing of wastewater.
- **County of Orange Health Care Agency**—Responsible for protecting public health by collecting, conveying, treating, and disposing of wastewater.
- **Regional Water Quality Control District**—Responsible for protecting surface waters.
- **Orange County Stormwater Program**—Responsible for preventing stormwater from being discharged or washed by stormwater into the existing storm drain system, streets, ditches, and the ocean.

You Could Be Liable for Not Protecting the Environment

Local and state agencies have legal jurisdiction and enforcement authority to ensure that sewage spills are remedied.

They may respond and assist with containment, relieving pipe blockages, and/or clean-up of the sewage spill, especially if the spill is flowing into storm drains or onto public property.

A property owner may be charged for costs incurred by these agencies responding to spills from private properties.

Report Sewage Spills!

City Sewer/Public Works Departments

Aliso Viejo	(949) 425-2500
Anaheim	(714) 765-4840
Brea	(714) 999-7691
Buena Park	(714) 862-5655
Costa Mesa	(714) 754-5248
Chico Park	(949) 218-5595
Fullerton	(714) 593-4600
Garden Grove	(714) 741-5556
Huntington Beach	(714) 960-8861
Irvine	(949) 724-6515
Laguna Beach	(949) 497-0765
Laguna Hills	(949) 707-2650
Laguna Niguel	(949) 362-4337
Laguna Woods	(949) 639-9500
La Habra	(562) 906-9792
La Palma	(714) 890-3368
Lake Forest	(949) 481-3480
Los Alamitos	(562) 431-3538
Mission Viejo	(949) 470-3095
Newport Beach	(949) 644-3011
Orange	(714) 532-4480
Orange County	(714) 867-8383
Placentia	(949) 366-1853
San Clemente	(949) 372-5169
Santa Ana	(562) 431-2827
Seal Beach	(714) 288-8742
Stanton	(714) 962-2411
Tustin	(714) 984-1500
Villa Park	(714) 898-3311
Westminster	(714) 898-3311
Yuba Linda	(714) 961-2170

Public Sewer Districts

Oxva Mesa Sanitary District	(714) 744-5252
El Tero Water District	(714) 393-4423
Ervedale Bay Sanitary District	(949) 484-9500
Garden Grove Sanitary District	(714) 741-5395
Irvine Ranch Water District	(949) 433-5300
Los Alamitos/Bassett	(562) 431-2223
Sewer District	
Midway City Sanitary District (Westminster)	(714) 393-3553
Moulton Niguel Water District	(949) 831-2500
Orange County Sanitation District	(714) 962-2311
Santa Margarita Water District	(949) 459-6420
South Coast Water District	(949) 499-4555
South Orange County	
Wastewater Authority	(949) 234-5600
Yreka/DeSoto Sanitary District	(562) 498-9932
Yuba/Orange Sanitary District	(949) 839-9277
Yuba Linda Water District	(714) 775-0078

Other Agencies

Orange County Health Care Agency	(714) 667-3600
Office of Emergency Services	(800) 852-7550

9. Water Quality Guidelines for Landscaping and Gardening

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

Tips for Landscape & Gardening

Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful.

Fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals that are left on yards or driveways can be blown or washed into the storm drains that flow to the ocean. Overwatering lawns can also send materials into the storm drains. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never pour gardening products into the ocean, so don't let them enter the storm drains. Follow these easy tips to help prevent water pollution.

For more information, please call the Orange County Stormwater Program at (714) 567-6363 or visit www.ocwatersheds.com.

To report a spill, call the Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Reporting Hotline at (714) 567-6363.

For emergencies, dial 911.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while landscaping or gardening. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representatives or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.



The Ocean Begins
at Your Front Door

P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N

Tips for Landscape and Gardening

Never allow gardening products or polluted water to enter the street or storm drain.

General Landscaping Tips

- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Prevent erosion of slopes by planting fast-growing, dense ground covering plants. These will shield and bind the soil.



- Plant native vegetation to reduce the amount of water, fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides needed.
- Never apply pesticides or fertilizers when rain is predicted within the next 48 hours.

Garden & Lawn Maintenance

- Do not over-water. Use irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro spray systems. Periodically inspect and fix leaks and misdirected sprinklers.

- Do not rake or blow leaves, clippings or pruning waste into the street, gutter or storm drains. Instead dispose of waste by composting, hauling it to a permitted landfill, or as green waste through your city's recycling program.



- Use slow-release fertilizers to minimize leaching and use organic fertilizers.

- Read labels and use only as directed. Do not over-apply pesticides or fertilizers. Apply to spots as needed, rather than blanketing an entire area.

- Store pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals in a dry covered area to prevent exposure that may result



in the deterioration of containers and packaging.

- Rinse empty pesticide containers and re-use rinse water as you would use the

product. Do not dump rinse water down storm drains. Dispose of empty containers in the trash.

- When available, use non-toxic alternatives to traditional pesticides and use pesticides specifically designed to control the pest you are targeting. For more information, check www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.
- If fertilizer is spilled, sweep up the spill before applying irrigation water. If the spill is liquid, apply an absorbent material like cat litter and then sweep and dispose in the trash.
- Take unwanted pesticides to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center to be recycled. Locations are provided below.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Anaheim: 1071 N. Blue Gum St.
Huntington Beach: 17121 Nichols St.
Irvine: 6411 Oak Canyon
San Juan Capistrano: 32250 La Pata Ave.

For more information, call (714) 834-6752 or visit www.octwatersheds.com