

Connections

November/December 2014



Flush With the End in Mind – Reliable Service Tips, Part V

Over the last four issues, we have taken you on an educational journey of our wastewater system. We started at home, made our way through the gravity and pressure sewers that comprise the collection system, and then went through the treatment process. At each step, we shared “Reliability Tips” on how you can help keep the wastewater system operating efficiently. In this, the last issue of the series, we’re going to close the loop and give you one last tip: **flush with the end in mind**. All waste goes somewhere, the question is – do you know where yours ends up?

Looking back

Consider what we’ve learned about the system. Wastewater contains both liquid and organic solids components. The liquids are treated to meet or exceed all water quality standards and then discharged into the Columbia River. The organic solids are treated to meet or exceed all standards, and the resulting biosolids are applied to farmlands as fertilizer.

Unfortunately, we learned there are also foreign objects in our wastewater, such as garbage, rags, wipes, debris, etc. that are flushed into the system and can’t be treated. These foreign objects ultimately end up in the landfill after being removed from whichever part of the system they are caught in (pipes, pumps, and/or the treatment plant). If the foreign object has caused any damage to the system, repairs must be made. Foreign objects can also create blockages that result in sewage backups into homes or the environment. That is some expensive trash!

What you flush has financial impacts on operation and maintenance costs and can also endanger environmental and public health.

So, remember our tip – no matter what it is you are flushing or putting down the drain, it all ends up somewhere. The question is how expensive it is to treat or remove and what health risks it creates along the way. With your help following our “reliability tips,” the District can continue to support our customers and the environment by providing effective sewer service at the lowest possible cost.

Reliability Tip: Flush with the end in mind.

Whether the wastewater is treated and discharged to the Columbia River or it is applied to farmland across Washington State, what we put into the sewer system has an impact on the environment. Now it’s your turn to spread the word. Tell your family and friends where the sewer flows and how they can help to keep rates down by preventing unwanted items from going down the drain. Each one of us can make a difference.

For the full list of reliability tips, visit: www.crwwd.com/service-tips.html



Columbia River

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday,
8 am - 5 pm
Closed Weekends &
Holidays

Emergency?

Call 24/7:
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