

The Drain Report



It Could Happen to You!

By: Ken Kase

In 1974 a home in Des Moines connected to the sewer. At that time, or perhaps sometime later, and in violation of Midway Sewer District regulations, the downspouts and crawl space sump pump were connected to the side sewer. This side sewer conveyed to the sewage treatment plant not only the sanitary wastewater from this home but also the rain water that fell on the roof of the home and the ground water that seeped underneath it. This can amount to a lot of water during a significant rain event!

This home changed hands many times over the ensuing years. I doubt that the subsequent owners of this home knew about these illegal sewer connections. In 2002 the current owner of the home moved in. Their side sewer continued to convey away their unwanted wastewater until finally the 43 year old concrete sewer pipe deteriorated to the point where it failed and became obstructed. Unfortunately for the current owner, this failure became apparent during a significant rain event on a cold and stormy January night.



The side sewer no longer conveyed the wastewater away from the home. Instead the wastewater backed up the side sewer and into the home. This wastewater included all the water the rain storm dumped on their roof together with all the water the sump pump could pump. It severely flooded their home and garage. Without these illegal connections the house would not have flooded. Now this owner has a mess to clean up and illegal connections to the sewer to eliminate.

It is not common for a prospective home buyer to consider the side sewer when deciding to purchase a home. I would suggest that you include consideration of the sewer when buying a home. Sewers can be expensive to fix. Illegal connections can end up flooding your home. There are many companies that will video inspect your sewer and let you know the condition of the system. This sewer inspection could save you a lot of money in the long term. Don't get stuck correcting a problem someone else created.

If you have illegal connections to the sewer and the District becomes aware of them you will be required to eliminate those connections. And besides, do you really want to overload the sanitary sewer system with rain water or ground water? It could cause a public health hazard.

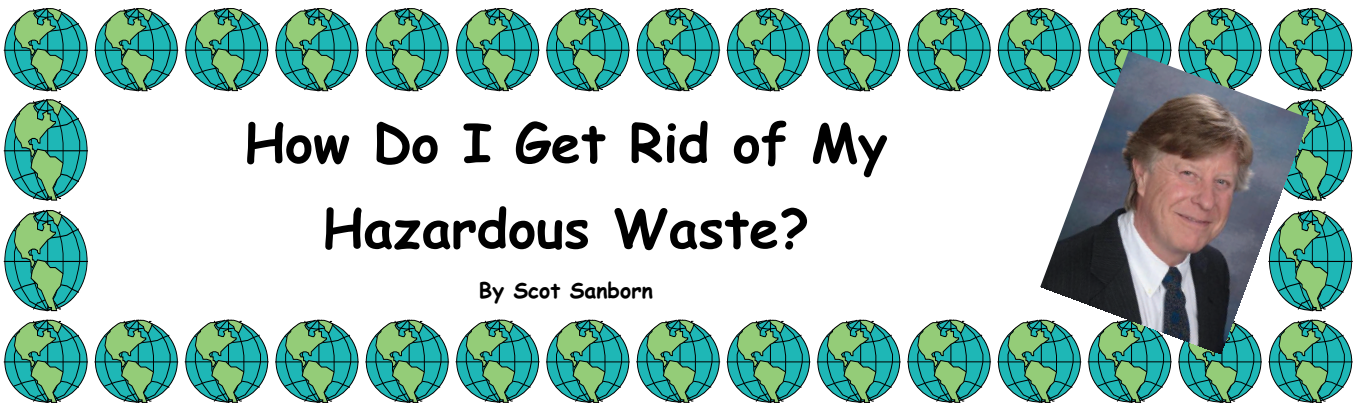


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Special points of interest:

- Midway Sewer District has one of the lowest monthly rates in the state.
- The Board meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Please contact the office for the meeting time.
- Midway serves the Cities of Des Moines, SeaTac, Kent, Federal Way, Normandy Park, Burien, and the Port of Seattle's SeaTac Airport.
- We have been part of this community since 1946.
- You can expect fast personal service when you need it.
- Our employees care about their customers.
- We have a single focus of providing quality sanitary sewer service.



How Do I Get Rid of My Hazardous Waste?

By Scot Sanborn



Typical household items that require proper disposal.

You would be surprised to learn how many common items found around the typical home are considered to be hazardous. We often need to dispose of these items, but we don't always know the best way (most environmentally friendly way) to do this. Please don't just throw these items in the trash or flush them down the drain. Take the time to properly dispose of them. There is a great resource for this online at <http://www.hazwastehelp.org/>. This is the home page for the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP). You can also contact them by phone at 206-296-4692 or toll free at 1-888-TOXIC ED, 1-888-869-4233.

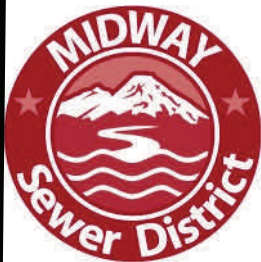
This program is funded by fees imposed on garbage and sewer service providers. At the Midway Sewer District a portion of a customer's sewer bill goes to pay the LHWMP fee. The fee the District recently paid to King County in the first quarter of 2017 was \$24,550. Participation in the LHWMP is mandatory and so is paying the fee. It is part of your sewer bill so I suggest using their program. Why not? You are paying for it.

You also might be interested in their Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX). IMEX is a free listing service to help you or your business sell or give away your surplus materials and wastes and help you or your business find materials for use. The last time I checked, they were offering free pallets, certain chemicals, long (working) LED lights, and fabric pieces. They may have something useful to you.



The LHWMP provides a multitude of services that benefit you, including the permanent and also traveling locations (waste mobile) where you can safely dispose of your hazardous items. You can learn what they will accept and where you can take it, and a lot more, by visiting their website. You will be doing your part to protect our beautiful environment by not disposing of these items in the garbage or down the drain.

Board of Commissioners



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