

The Brain Report

Rate Increase for 2020

Midway Sewer will have a rate increase for 2020. The current rate is \$28.00/month, and the rate in 2020 will be \$29.00/month. Midway Sewer bills on a 60-day billing cycle, so for our residential customers, the flat rate will go from \$56.00 to \$58.00 per bill period. The first bill of 2020 will be pro-rated.

Our commercial customers are billed on water consumption. The rate will go from \$.0373 per c.f. to \$.0386 per c.f. per bill period.

We have customers in the City of Des Moines, City of Kent and the City of Federal Way, that are billed a Franchise Fee or Utility Tax

Are Wipes Flushable?

NO THEY ARE NOT!



It depends on who you ask. The manufacturers of these products claim that their products are "flushable". It is a multi-billion dollar industry and they are willing to take extraordinary steps to keep their product classified as flushable. In fact these wipes have caused countless sewer and plumbing backups costing homeowners and utilities enormous amounts of money. I doubt any sewer service provider would tell you it is OK to flush these products.

In general, a sewer is not a garbage disposal system. If people flush medicines, toxic substances, grease or oil, or wipes down the drain they risk damaging the treatment process or clogging up the system.

Put the rest of the garbage in the trash! Take your toxic substances, oil and grease to the King County Local Hazardous Waste Disposal sites or to a waste mobile. Locations & hours of operation can be found at <https://www.hazwastehelp.org/>.

Unused medications can be disposed of using the Medicine Return Program. Locations & information, go to www.medicinereturn.com.

The only good place to dispose of these "wipes" is in the garbage.

PO Box 3487, 3030 S. 240th St., Kent, WA 98089, (206) 824-4960
<http://www.midwaysewer.org/>

Inside this issue:

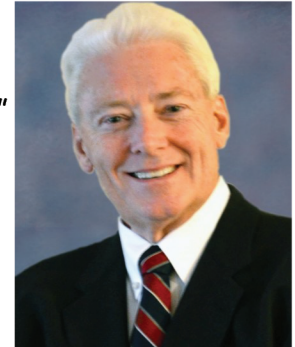
Rate Increase for 2020	1
Are Wipes Flushable?	1
Help us Prevent sewer overflows caused by I&I	2

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.

Help us prevent sewer overflows caused by I & I (Infiltration & Inflow)

By: Vince Koester



When I became a Sewer Commissioner one of my goals was to make the system better and more efficient by reducing the amount of the "wrong type of water" in our system. A very large portion of this "wrong type of water" comes from what we call Infiltration and Inflow (I & I). Last December a history making storm event caused a sewer overflow into McSorely Creek and closed the beach at Saltwater Sate Park for several days. During this heavy rain event the sewer flows increased many times over causing the system to back up and overflow into the Creek.

A majority of the extra water was from illegal I & I connections.

When water other than domestic sewage enters our sewers it uses up capacity that was intended for domestic wastewater. The sources of this I & I are leaky pipes that allow ground water into the system, crawl space sump pumps that pump surface and ground water into the sewers, downspouts and yard drains that pour rainwater into the sewer system. We all pay for the costs of I & I. In order to be able to cope with I & I you must either eliminate it or build enough capacity into the system to be able to handle it.

Building a bigger sewer system and treatment plant to handle I & I (the wrong type of water) is not a viable option. The rules and regulations that govern our District do not allow us to accept the "wrong type of water". The District is constantly looking for the sources of I & I. We have purchased the very best pipeline video inspection systems and sewer maintenance equipment to be able to detect and prevent I & I from entering the sewer system. When we find a leaky pipe we fix it. Even with all this effort we still get I & I.

Where is this I & I coming from? It is coming from private property. Sometimes property owners are unaware that their pipes are conveying I & I into the public sewer system. Other times property owners are fully aware because they connected a source of I & I to our system. The District respects private property but is not willing to continually allow private I & I from getting into the public sewer system. If you have a connection to the sewer that allows I & I into the sanitary sewer, that is an illicit connection and it needs to be eliminated.

The District knows of certain areas where the I & I problem is the most severe. It makes sense that these are the areas where the District will concentrate its efforts to reduce I & I. Whether or not you reside in one of the problem areas you need to disconnect any illicit sewer connections. If you are uncertain if you are contributing to this problem contact the District for assistance. We will try to help you not only eliminate an illicit connection to the sewer but also help with resolving the underlying water problem.

Board of Commissioners



George Landon Jack Hendrickson Vince Koester Jim Bailey Scot Sanborn

Midway Sewer District

3030 S 240th ST

Kent, WA 98032

www.midwaysewer.org/

206-824-4960