

The Drain Report



Disposal of "Things" Down the Drain By: Ken Kase

We are all users of drains that contribute flow to the sanitary sewer system. Many people use these drains as a convenient disposal for garbage. By garbage I am including items that you need to dispose of when you are in either the bathroom or kitchen. These drains make our lives very convenient, except when they stop draining. When these drains stop working as intended they can be a source of stress, expense, and inconvenience. Often times they stop working because of what we put into them.

The drains I am referring to should only receive items that will readily break apart and biodegrade. When items like dental floss, feminine hygiene products, and moistened wipes are flushed down the drain they can cause problems. Many of us are confused by labeling which indicates certain items are flushable. Back on November 2, 2015, the Federal Trade Commission issued a press release titled, "FTC Approves Final Order Requiring Wet Wipe Manufacturer to Substantiate "Flush-ability" Advertising Claims". Following that action by the Federal Trade Commission some manufacturers of wipes continue to claim their products are flushable. Some wipes may be flushable but, I doubt it. There are many types of pre-moistened wipes. There are some called baby wipes, some for wiping your eye glasses, some small towelettes are for cleaning and sanitizing your hands, some wipes are for disinfecting your surfaces like countertops, other wipes are for use at the loo.



Trashcan



NOT a Trashcan

Don't Flush



- ⦿ Disposable Wipes
- ⦿ Dental Floss
- ⦿ Paper Towels
- ⦿ Feminine Products
- ⦿ Cotton Balls
- ⦿ Bandages
- ⦿ Syringes or Needles
- ⦿ Gum

If you like your drains to work, I suggest you stop putting any garbage down the drain. Here is a partial list of things that you **should not** put down the drain: coffee grounds, eggshells, fats, oils, grease, cat litter (including flushable cat litter), condoms, paper towels, cotton balls, disposable diapers, wipes (including flushable wipes), paint, conventional cleaning products, car fluids, and medications. It would be a lot easier to list the things it is OK to put down the drain than to list the things that should not go down the drain. It is OK to flush human waste, toilet paper, and water.

Some products claim to be flushable but that won't help you when your drains are backing up. I know that the concept of items being flushable is enticing from the standpoint of being convenient. My suggestion to you is to put your garbage in the garbage!

Goodbye Kim By: Ken Kase

The District was stunned when Kim Hewlett, Chief Operator at the Des Moines Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, passed away in late July after losing his battle with illness. He took with him over 35 years of valuable experience. He leaves behind a lot of friends, a huge list of projects completed and years of smooth treatment plant operation due in large part to his hard work. His absence leaves a void in our hearts, our workforce, and in our community!



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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.

Projects & Planning In Progress By: George Landon



The District has been busy lately fixing, rehabilitating, and replacing older equipment and pipelines as well as expanding the system. This is an ongoing process that never ends.

At the treatment plant we are in the midst of an electrical project to replace old Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's) for some of our motors that need to run at different speeds from time to time. In a separate but related project we are also replacing an aging Supervisory Command and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system with a new one. The SCADA system tells the treatment plant how to respond to changing flow rates and differing operating conditions. It orchestrates all the different pieces of equipment to work in concert with each other. We are also replacing some older Return Activated Sludge (RAS) pipes with new ones to ensure they don't leak. We recently finished repairing corrosion damage to the lids of a couple of holding tanks and before that we reinsulated and recoated the digester lids. We are planning on rehabilitating a grit chamber and both trickling filters in the upcoming year.



400 feet of encased sewer to reside underneath new SeaTac roadway.

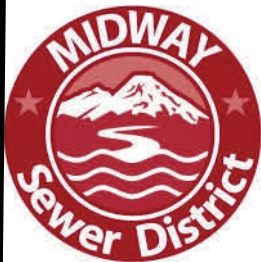
We have also been busy working on the sewer collection system. We used a Cast-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) method to rehabilitate 3,996 lineal feet of sewer in the downtown Des Moines area. We took the opportunity to replace 1735 lineal feet of our aging sewer system within the scope of the City of Des Moines S. 268th Street improvement project. This allows us to replace our sewers and save on pavement restoration by coordinating our project with other utilities and the City. The City of SeaTac has been busy constructing a new road that will connect S. 208th Street to S. 200th Street via 24th/28th Avenues. The District needed to reroute some existing sewers to avoid sections of the new roadway and also a future SR509. In addition to re-routing 705 feet of sewer, the District added 534 feet of new sewer to provide service to a previously underserved area. The District replaced a 130 foot long run of sewer near our 16th Ave. S. pump station that is worn out. We are also proceeding with our South Sylvia Pines Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Reduction project. This project is in the discovery and policy development stage.

The development community has also been busy! Angle Lake Estates extended 472 feet of sewer main to serve their project. Blueberry Lane extended 3,175 feet of sewer main to serve their site. Highline View Estates extended the sewer by 760 feet, The Des Moines Creek Business Park (DMCBP) Phase 1 extended the sewer by 1,200 feet, followed by DMCBP Phase 2 which added another 1015 feet of sewer, and DMCBP Phase 3 which added another 700 feet of sewer. All told developers have recently added 7,322 feet of sewer to the sewer system. There are four more projects being proposed which would add an additional 2,089 feet of sewer.

As the demands on our sewer system increase we must meet and exceed the challenges we face. In order to stay ahead of the demands placed on the sewer system the District periodically goes through the process to prepare a "General Sewerage Plan". We are beginning this planning effort. This plan attempts to predict future demands on the sewer capacity, treatment plant capacity, rate sufficiency, staff sufficiency, and life cycle of the components of the system and maps out a plan to meet those future needs.



Board of Commissioners



George Landon Jack Hendrickson Vince Koester Jim Bailey Scot Sanborn

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