

# The Drain Report

## Maintain Your Traps and Breathe a Little Easier

By: Ken Kase

One common problem many people have experienced is foul odors entering their homes or businesses via the plumbing. It is no secret that foul smelling materials exist in your plumbing (and our sewers) but that does not mean you have to experience them. If your plumbing is working properly these foul smells should be safely exhausting out the plumbing vent, which is usually located on the roof.

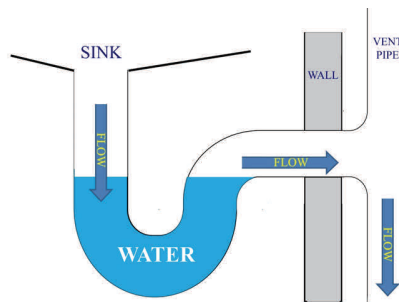
If your plumbing has been properly constructed your waste piping includes some sort of "trap" between your plumbing fixture and the plumbing vent system. This trap uses water to create a barrier to prevent gases from escaping through your sink, bathtub or other plumbing fixture.

There are many types of traps and they have names like P-trap, J-trap, S-trap and so on. All of these traps use the same basic principal of a liquid filled chamber as a barrier to gas. These gases follow the path of least resistance, which should be the segment of your plumbing known as the stack vent or plumbing vent.

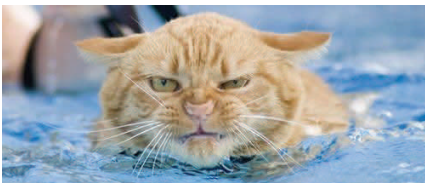
If for some reason the water in one of your traps evaporates, leaks out of the trap, or is sucked out of the trap due to a vacuum, the gases in your plumbing could vent into your house.

Often times floor drains are not used for extended periods of time, the water in the trap evaporates, and this allows gas to escape inside the building.

These traps are easy to maintain by simply adding water to the drain periodically. The need to add water is related to the evaporation rate. It has been my experience that adding water every month is sufficient to keep your trap working properly. There are even products available to purchase which help prevent the water in your traps from evaporating.



Cross Section of a P-Trap



No cats were harmed in writing this article.

## Fwim Kitty, Fwim!

By: Brock D. Powell

As I was growing up I heard the family tale many times of my cousin getting caught trying to flush the cat down the toilet. My aunt walked in on my cousin as she was actively pulling down the flush handle on the toilet and as the water swirled and gushed, she was

shouting, "Fwim Kitty, fwim!" I don't know too many cats that like water and that one had a special hate for the stuff.

Just as cats do not belong in the toilet, so it goes for every other item we come across in life, with two exceptions. We all know that the loo is for numbers 1 and 2. So, why is it that the sewer district retrieves cell phones, lighters, jewelry, false teeth, dolls, toys, etc. from the pipes below ground?

Accidents happen. Of course they do. I even flushed a \$20 bill once. And yes, that was accidental. Watching money go 'up in smoke' is bad enough, but it can be heart-breaking to watch it slowly submerge and get whisked away in the flow. (The sewer district did not return it, either).

The point here is to be aware and mindful of the things we are flushing. You have undoubtedly heard the recent requests from utilities to stop flushing the 'flushable' wipes because we are now aware they should NOT be labeled as 'flushable'. Let us take it one step further and teach our youngsters early on that we are caretakers of our world and if it should not go in the toilet, don't put it in there!

Cats and puppies around the world applaud your efforts. Keep up the good work people.

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<http://www.midwaysewer.org/>

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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.

# Fixing A Pipe From The Inside

By: Scot Sanborn



I have been your Commissioner for a little less than a year and I still have much to learn. One way we can be cost effective with the resources available is being aware of emerging technologies and how to best apply them. One available technology for the rehabilitation of existing pipes is called cured-in-place pipe or CIPP. This District has historically repaired and rehabilitated its pipes by digging them up and fixing or replacing them. In 2014, the District will be using CIPP technology to rehabilitate approximately 5,000 linear feet of aging sewer mains in the downtown Des Moines area.

There are many trenchless pipe rehabilitation technologies available including grouting, slip lining, folded pipe lining, pipe bursting, pipe reaming, spray-in-place pipe, and cured-in-place pipe. There are many variations of each of these technologies. It can be difficult to choose which method will be the best for a particular pipe rehabilitation. CIPP was chosen for use in certain sewers in the downtown Des Moines area because these pipes are approaching the end of their useful life but their only defect is signs of wear. CIPP is a relatively inexpensive method and it will cause minimal disruption and inconvenience to the public.

CIPP installation will require affected customers to cease using their sewers for several hours during the CIPP installation and curing process. These customers will also be asked to check their P-traps and fill them if needed to prevent odors from entering homes or businesses. CIPP uses resins which must be cured before the sewer can be put back in service. To accelerate the curing process contractors use hot water, steam, or sometimes ultra-violet light. Certain resins release chemical agents into the air such as styrene, which are readily detectable at very low concentrations. The concentrations anticipated in a CIPP project are well below hazardous levels but still create a nuisance when detected.



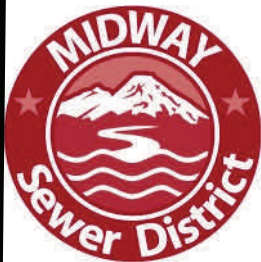
**A resin impregnated felt liner is pulled or inverted into the sewer directly from the truck.**

This will be the first CIPP project this District has done. We expect to get a low-cost, leak-proof, smooth-walled, seamless, and structurally sound rehabilitated sewer that will last for 50 years or more, without needing to dig up the street. CIPP technology has been used successfully all over the world and has proven itself as a viable alternative to more costly rehabilitation methods. The District and I will learn from this project and there will likely be more CIPP projects in the future. Another thing I have learned is how fortunate Midway Sewer District customers, myself included, are to be served by such a fine group of employees that provide our sewer service!



**Steam is used to cure the resins in the liner and exhausts out the far end of the liner at a manhole.**

## Board of Commissioners



George Landon Jack Hendrickson Vince Koester Jim Bailey Scot Sanborn

### Midway Sewer District

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