



Save Our Sewers

Last month we held a Day-After-Thanksgiving Grease Collection and Recycling event. This event is held annually to remind people to not pour grease down the drain.

Pouring kitchen grease down the drain clogs sewer pipes, reduces sewage flow and acts as a magnet for other debris. Eventually this buildup can cause a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO). An SSO is the backup of raw sewage into the street, the environment, homes and businesses.

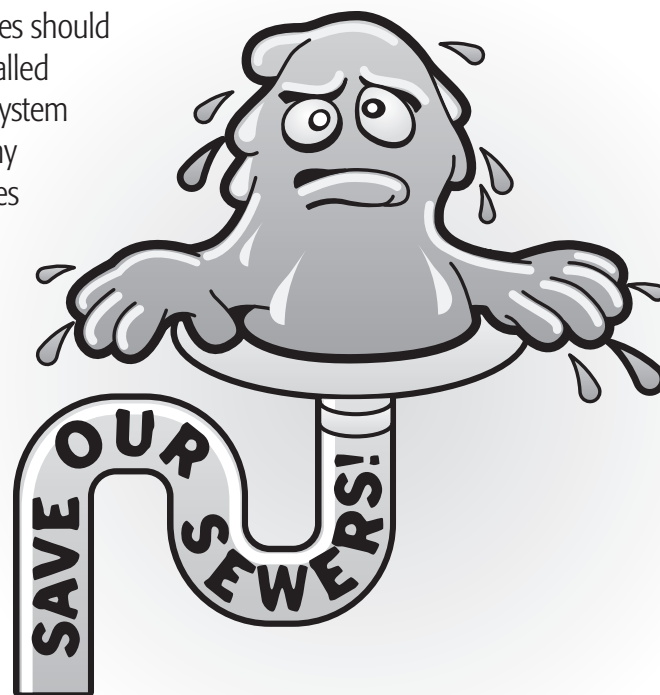
After you cook, please allow the grease to cool and then pour it into a tin can. Please discard the collected grease into the trash or bring it to a year-round grease collection site. For more information, please call us at 740-6500 or visit our website at www.pima.gov/wwm/programs/sos/.

In addition to not pouring grease down the drain, there are a number of other precautions you can take to protect our sanitary sewer system. You can safeguard our sewers by not flushing harmful substances down drains and toilets.

Harmful substances include: automotive fluids, pesticides, medications, solvents, and similar substances. For information on how to safely dispose of these items, please contact the Household Hazardous Waste Program at 888-6947 or visit them on the web at www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw.

In addition to the substances noted above, disposable wipes should not be flushed down your toilet. Unfortunately, these so-called disposable wipes rarely biodegrade in the sanitary sewer system and can damage sewer pumps and equipment. If too many wipes accumulate in the sewer system, they can block pipes which can lead to SSOs into streets, buildings and the environment. The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department asks that you discard disposable wipes in the trash.

Medicines should not be flushed since some medicinal products cannot be removed through the wastewater treatment process. Substances that cannot be removed eventually end up in the environment. RWRD participates in the Dispose-a-Med Program, which runs events that provide for the safe disposal of unused and expired medicines. If you cannot get to a Dispose-a-Med event, current recommendations are to grind up



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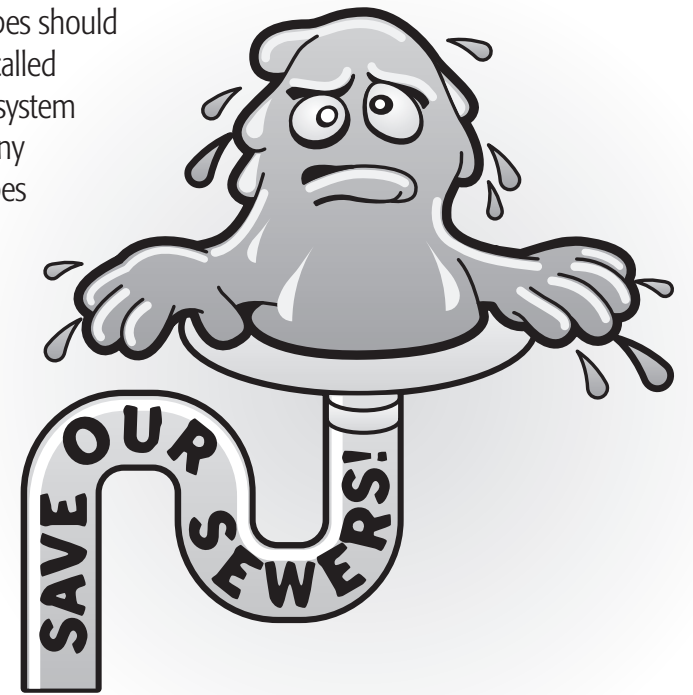
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your unused medicines, place them in cat litter, coffee grounds or a similar granular substance to make them unusable, and then throw them in the trash.

For information about the Dispose-a-Med program and collection events, go to the Dispose a Med program website at www.disposeamed.pima.gov/index.html or call 443-6040.

The proper disposal of potentially hazardous and damaging products will help keep our sewer system flowing properly and will reduce environmental contamination.

Sewer Emergency Number

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department provides a 24-hour phone number for you to call to report sewer emergencies.

Please contact our office at 443-6500 to report any sewer emergencies.

A staff member will dispatch a crew to the site of the emergency.

Situations that are sewer emergencies include Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), sewer vandalism, and sewer odors.

An SSO occurs when raw sewage is backing up into your home or business. The most common causes of SSOs are clogged sewer lines.

Vandals damage sewer infrastructure when they throw rocks, vegetation, and other debris into manholes or cleanouts. **Please call 911 to report the unauthorized opening of a manhole.** The opening of a manhole is unauthorized if there is no Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department truck nearby.



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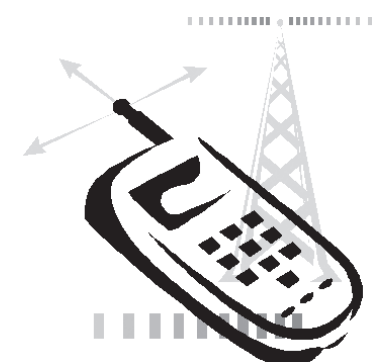
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Contact Us

General Information.....	740-6500
Roach Control Hotline (Automated line, please provide requested information)	443-6501
Billing Section.....	740-6609
Sewer Emergencies (regular business hours)	443-6500
To Report Odors.....	443-6500
Sewer Outreach Subsidy (Low-income bill assistance).....	243-6794
To Report Vandalism	911

To contact us during regular business hours, please call 740-6500. To report sanitary sewer emergencies outside of normal work hours, please call 443-6500.

**PIMA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
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Ann Day, District 1
Sharon Bronson, District 3
Raymond J. Carroll, District 4
Richard Elías, District 5

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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