

Are You  
Committing  
Sewercide?

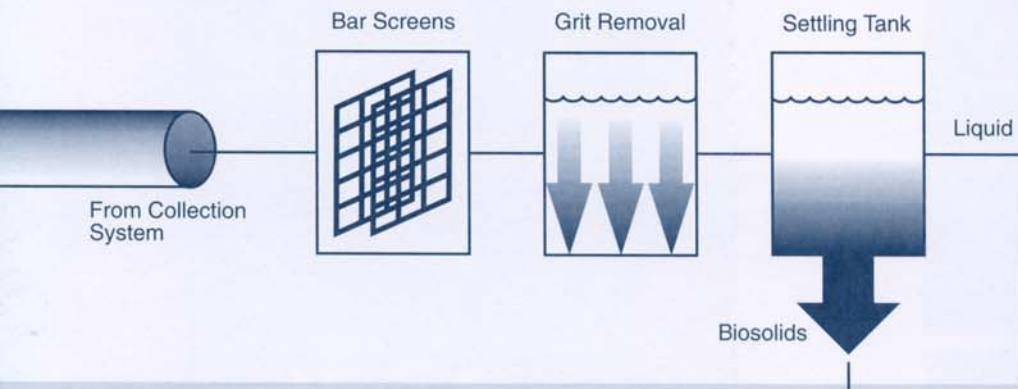


Pima County Wastewater  
Management Department

The wastewater you flush or pour into the sewer system is carried through an extensive underground network of pipes to one of Pima County's wastewater treatment facilities. At the facility, a process using living bacteria breaks down the pollutants in the wastewater. You can avoid committing **SEWERCIDE** (injury to the treatment process) by keeping all potentially harmful substances out of the drain.

## Primary Treatment

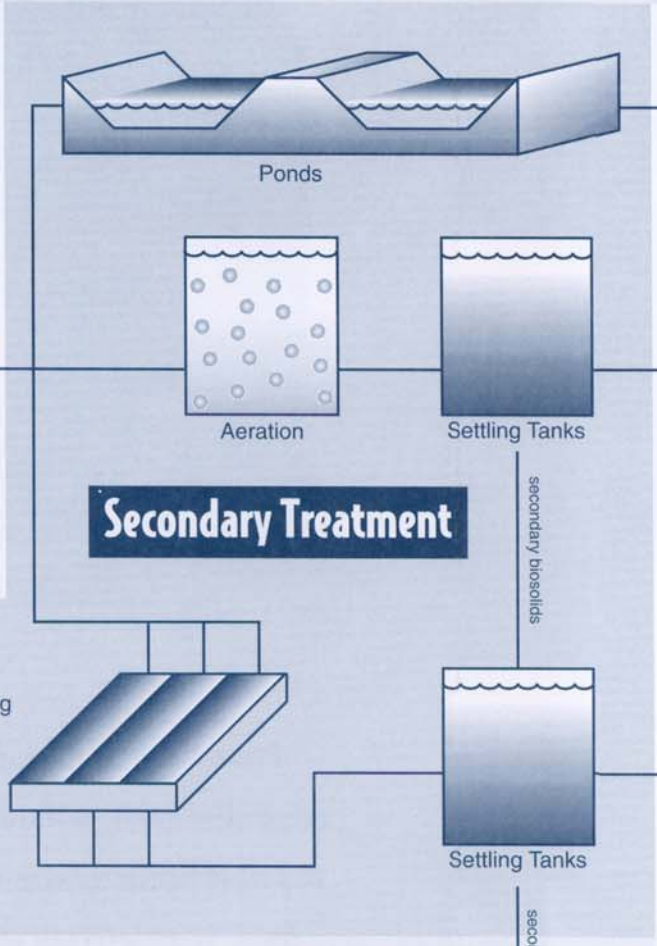
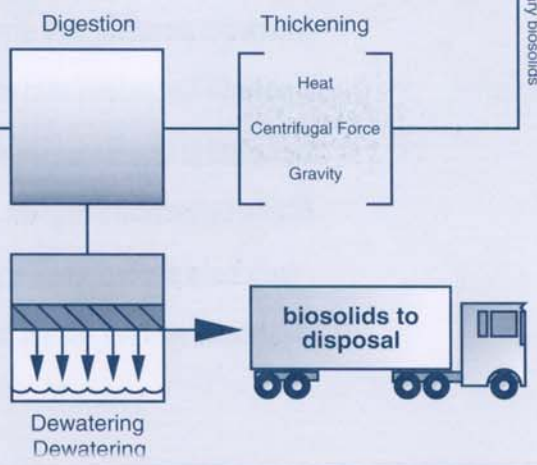
During the PRIMARY treatment process, large inorganic debris and heavy solids are screened and settled out, while the fats and oils float to the surface where they are skimmed away.



During the SECONDARY treatment process, biological matter in the remaining liquid is consumed by bacteria, which become heavy and settle to the bottom. They are now known as sludge, or BIOSOLIDS. It is easy to see how chemical substances put into the sewer system can inhibit or destroy this biological process.

The BIOSOLIDS are further treated by bacterial action and heated before being hauled to farmlands and applied as fertilizers for nonfood crops. A useful byproduct of the digestion process is methane gas. It is captured and used to generate the electricity needed to run the equipment at the wastewater treatment plants.

## Biosolids Processing

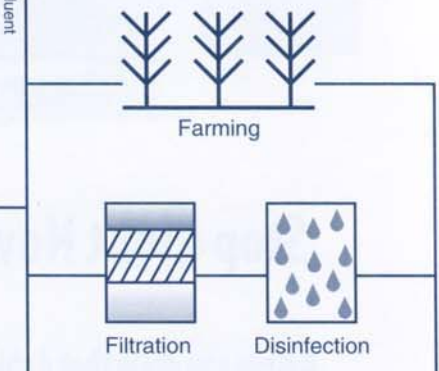


## Secondary Treatment

## Advanced Treatment

Most of the effluent produced by the treatment plants is discharged to the Santa Cruz River where it eventually helps replenish the groundwater.

A portion of the the effluent is filtered and disinfected for use on playgrounds, parks and golf courses. Effluent is also conveyed to downstream farmlands for irrigation.



**Effluent will play an increasingly important role in meeting our water supply needs. Keeping it safe is vital for our health and economy.**



## **Stop Right Now!**

**Before you drain that dubious  
decanter...**

**Before you rinse that revolutive  
receptacle...**

**Before you flush that foul formula...**

**Ask yourself...**

**Are You Committing Sewercide?**



**Prevent SEWERCIDE....don't put  
automotive fluids, pesticides, solvents,  
and other similar substances down the  
drain. Select less toxic alternatives  
whenever possible and dispose of any  
household hazardous materials through  
the County/City Household Hazardous  
Waste Collection Program. You'll not  
only help protect your wastewater  
treatment system, you'll help protect  
yourself.**