



# Pollution Prevention

## Sending It Down The Drain

### **Be Careful What You Send Down the Drain**

Wastewater from sinks, tubs, disposals, toilets and most floor drains all end up in the sewer system. Sewer mains route that wastewater to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and safely released back into the environment. The treated wastewater is either discharge to the Napa River or as reclaimed water. The system works remarkably well, especially considering the number of homes and businesses that depend on it. Not everything that can go down the drain, however, should go down the drain.

Toxic chemicals, such as insecticides and solvents, are difficult to remove in the treatment process and can severely disrupt the operation of a wastewater treatment plant as they may kill the organisms that treat and stabilize sewage. In addition, such toxic chemicals pose a serious hazard for crews that need to work in the sewer mains or at the treatment plant. Cooking grease and oil is another problem where it accumulates on the walls of sewer pipes including sewer mains, causing sewer backups that require expensive cleanup and repair. Rags and plastic can clog pumps at lift stations that move wastewater, thus reducing pumping capacity.

As a District resident, you can help maintain the smooth operations of the wastewater system and safety of its collection crew by making sure that nothing goes down the drain that can cause an upset or interference. For more information, please call us at (707) 258-6000.

