



HOW TO PREVENT & REPORT SEWAGE SPILLS



The sewer system transports wastewater to treatment plants before being released. Unlike water in sanitary sewers, water that flows into storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways and should never contain sewage.

COMMON CAUSES

BLOCKAGES

- Flushing anything other than toilet paper, including: wipes (even those advertised as “flushable”), feminine products, rags, and other items
- Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) can get into the sewer from household drains, as well as from poorly maintained commercial grease traps and interceptors
- The roots can find their way into cracked or broken sewer laterals and cause blockages

STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

- Broken/cracked pipes
- Deteriorated, missing, or broken cleanout caps
- Aging or undersized sewers

REPORT SPILLS & BACKUPS

KNOW THE SIGNS

- Drains are operating slower than usual
- Dains backup inside of building
- Unusually wet or soggy ground in yard
- Leakage from sewer cleanouts

PREVENT BLOCKAGES

- Use a mesh sink strainer to catch food scraps
- Scrape food scraps into a designated organics bin before rinsing dishes
- Let grease cool then pour into a metal can. Once the can is full, dispose of grease properly
- For businesses, grease traps or interceptors must be serviced regularly
- Do not plant trees or large shrubs above or within several feet of your sewer line

REPORT

- If you suspect a sewer backup or leak, contact a licensed plumber
- If you observe a spill from a cleanout or manhole, contact Carpinteria Sanitary District (805) 684-7214 ext. 110



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