



Use simple tools like hourglass timers to reduce water use



Locate and cap your sewer cleanout to prevent rainwater and debris from entering your sewer line



Don't forget – wipes clog pipes! Flush toilet paper only!

STAYING HEALTHY AT HOME

As we continue to stay home more due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you may notice an increase in water use, grocery bills (especially if you have kids), and an increase in power use as we rely more on virtual connections than physical ones. It is important to protect our health during this time, but it's also a good time to develop healthy habits on how we use our resources at home.



At the start of the pandemic, there was a shortage of toilet paper in the stores. Unfortunately, some residents started to flush products other than toilet paper that are not designed to break down in water. Sewer Utility crews found an increase in wipes and cleaning products in our sewer systems, creating more maintenance issues in some areas where there were already problems.

Remind others in your household that toilet paper is the **ONLY** product that is safe to flush. Wipes, even those marketed as flushable, can cause clogs in your plumbing and in sewer and septic systems. There are also other steps you can take to be more resourceful with your water use and prevent plumbing problems.

Using a timer for showers and brushing teeth is a good way to limit water use. Tools like strainers in all your drains, both kitchen and bathroom, will help eliminate clogs caused by bits of food and hair entering the drains.

When in doubt, throw it out. Avoid using the toilet as a trash can and think twice about what you pour down the drain. Keep fats, oils and grease away from the kitchen drain. Consider recycling used cooking oil at one of Kitsap County's recycling and waste facilities.

While at home, familiarize yourself with where all utilities are located so you are better prepared in case of an emergency. For your plumbing and sewer systems, this means locating where water comes in and goes out. The Sewer Utility can provide you an electronic copy of your sewer permit.

Make sure your sewer cleanout is accessible and has a lid to keep rainwater, leaves, and other debris from entering your sewer pipes.

With these tips, you can help keep your home running efficiently and avoid costly plumbing issues. Thank you for doing your part to help us keep maintenance costs down and provide safe sewer service for our communities.

PREVENT SEWER SPILLS

Sewage spills are most often caused by clogged or broken pipes on private property in residential areas. Help prevent sewer spills by knowing where your pipes are located and practicing healthy habits at home.

Visit www.KitsapGov.com/pw for tips on protecting your sewer line.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND COVID-19



You may have read in recent news stories that ribonucleic acid (RNA) from the virus that causes COVID-19 has been found in untreated wastewater. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is little evidence of the infectious virus in wastewater, and no information to date that anyone has become sick with COVID-19 because of exposure to wastewater.

Coronavirus found in untreated wastewater will not affect our drinking water supply. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low. Additionally, according to the CDC, COVID-19 is mainly thought to spread between people who are in close contact with one another.

Do wastewater treatment plants treat COVID-19?

Yes, wastewater treatment plants treat viruses and other pathogens. Coronavirus, which causes COVID-19, is a type of virus that is particularly susceptible to disinfection. Standard treatment and disinfectant processes at wastewater treatment plants are expected to be effective.

COVID-19 UTILITIES SCAMS

Utility companies in Washington can't disconnect your service for unpaid bills right now. Anyone who says otherwise is a scammer. If you get a phone call stating your service will be disconnected, hang up and call your utility.

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 080-2020 on April 27th to temporarily suspend penalties for customers unable to pay monthly sewer bills. The Commissioners find that due to the COVID-19 crisis, many of Kitsap County's citizens have lost jobs or have not been able to work, and so have lost income putting them in a position of not being able to currently afford to pay their monthly sewer service bill during this emergency.

Gov. Jay Inslee has also extended the statewide ban on all utility shutoffs for nonpayment during the COVID-19 pandemic through at least October 15. No one should lose access to their water, energy or phone services right now.

Please note: these provisions do not relieve customers from their obligation to pay utility bills. If you're worried about paying your utility bills, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission may be able to help. Call them at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882) or visit their website at utc.wa.gov.

KITSAP COUNTY SERVICES ONLINE AND BY PHONE

To protect the public and our staff, most Kitsap County government services are available online, by email, or by phone, including the Sewer Utility. We have closed most public service counters, but county staff are still working and can serve you remotely. In-person services may be scheduled by appointment.

If you need to schedule an appointment, you're not sure who to contact, or need to report a problem with a county service, please contact Kitsap1 for help at 360.337.5777.

