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**Sewer block or overflow?
Call us first at 644-8949**

VALLEJO SANITATION & FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Currents

WHAT NOT TO FLUSH

One of the most common questions we are asked at the District is: *How do I know what's safe to flush down the toilet?* The answer is very simple. The only things that should be flushed down the toilet are human body waste and toilet paper. That's it.

When you use your toilet, shower, washing machine, garbage disposal, sink or dishwasher, wastewater leaves your home through pipes called sewer mains. These pipes carry your wastewater to our treatment plant, where it is safely treated before being released to the Bay.

If materials are flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain that don't belong, they can harm the environment, the pipes, and the treatment plant.

But what about the products that are advertised as "flushable"? Don't believe it. Many of these products can clog your toilet, causing overflows and potential property damage. If the product manages to make it to the treatment plant without clogging a pipe and causing an overflow along the way, chances are it's going to mess up our



pumps. No cleaning wipes, feminine products, floor or dusting rags, and the like.

Obviously, the photo showing someone pouring dog food into their toilet is a joke. But we do find strange items (cell phones, small toys) in our system. Accidents happen, and we understand.

But for every day, standard bathroom use, only body waste and toilet paper should go down the toilet.

And what about the sink? Just because something's a liquid doesn't mean it can safely be poured down the sink.

Most household products should be either used up, or properly disposed of at your local household hazardous waste facility.

Oil and grease can be recycled at Vallejo Garbage Service. Pharmaceuticals should be double-bagged and

placed in the trash, or taken to an take-back event ... although we are working with the Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group for an easy, regional solution for unused medicine. We will let you know as soon as there's a better way to dispose of them.

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NEW IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



It's going to be a very busy spring! The District is now accepting bids for a major sewer replacement project that will take place in areas around Springs

Road, Arkansas Street, Burnette Street, the intersection of Broadway and Valle Vista, Coronel Avenue, Laurel Street, 5th Avenue, and Viewmont Avenue. These are old easement lines that suffer from a lot of root intrusion, which cause blockages in the lines.

The projects will replace the pipes, which will mean that blockages will be prevented, and service will be assured.

Now in construction is a large number of lower

laterals (pipes that extend from cleanouts to the main sewer lines). The work includes pipe replacement, traffic control, and property/ surface restoration to make sure that the sidewalks, curbs and gutters are working properly when the job is done. Those thirty-one lower laterals will be replaced by Joe Howard Construction, so if you see them in your neighborhood, you'll know they're keeping your sewer lines working the way they should.



Tip of the Season

The information about aphids on this page is taken from "Controlling Aphids in your Garden," one of the many fact sheets available from Our Water, Our World, a regional program supported by Bay Area stormwater programs, including the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District.

WWW.OURWATEROURWORD.ORG

is a wonderful website, where you can get lots of information about less-toxic solutions to common home and garden issues.



Currents is produced bimonthly by the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District. For more

CONTROLLING APHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN

Most plants can tolerate low to moderate numbers of aphids without noticeable damage. On some plants, however, large numbers of aphids can distort foliage and flowers and stunt plant growth. Some species of aphids can also transmit plant diseases when they puncture plant tissues to feed.

Aphids excrete "honeydew," a sweet substance that forms a harmless but sticky coating on leaves. The honeydew is soon colonized by a fungus called "sooty mold," which is also harmless, but makes leaves look black and dirty. Argentine ants love to feed on honeydew, and to ensure a continuing supply, they protect aphids from their natural enemies. When this happens, aphid management must include ant management.

Detection

Aphids are very small insects with soft, pear-shaped bodies. They have long legs and antennae, and most have two tube-like structures called cornicles on their hind end. Adults of some species have wings. Aphids can be many colors and are usually on buds or the undersides of leaves.

Tolerate Some Aphids

Tolerate low to moderate numbers of aphids as long as they aren't causing noticeable plant damage. There is a reason for this: aphids have many natural enemies such as spiders and ladybugs that help your garden.

Prevention

Use slow-release fertilizers like compost.



Avoid excessive pruning because it stimulates aphid-attracting growth. Control ants by spraying or painting a 4" wide sticky barrier around woody shrubs or trees.

For your free fact sheets on aphids and ants, call 644-8949 ext. 292.