

The Drain Report

Storm Water in the Sanitary Sewer Costs Us All

By: Ken Kase

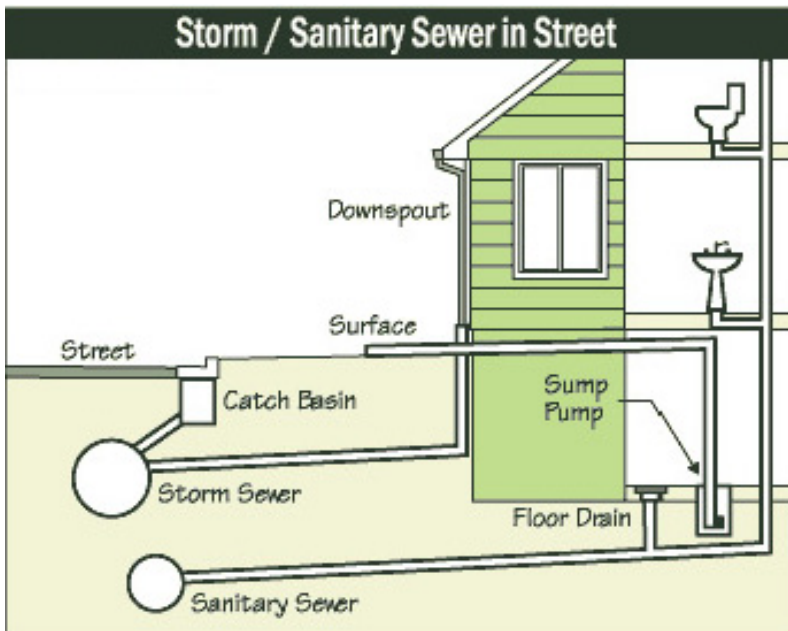
The sanitary sewer is intended only for the wastewater that comes from your plumbing fixtures like sinks, tubs, showers, toilets, and laundry facilities. The stormwater system is a separate utility that you pay for and is intended to collect and safely convey rainwater.

Customers who allow rain or ground water into the sanitary sewer system take up valuable capacity in the sewer system. This additional demand on the system requires extra capacity and energy. To add capacity, sewer pipes need to be up-sized. Pump stations need bigger pumps, wet wells, and forcemains. The treatment plant also needs updated equipment and larger tanks and facilities as well. It can easily cost tens of millions of dollars just to add capacity for water that should not be in the system in the first place!

Who pays the cost of all these improvements that are needed to respond to the demand imposed by all this storm water? **You do.** The Commissioners and staff at the Midway Sewer District work hard to reliably collect and treat your sewage at an affordable price. We can't do this without your help. If you or someone you know has a crawl space sump pump, downspout, foundation drain or yard drain connected

to the sewer it needs to be rerouted to the storm drain system.

It is a lot more efficient and cost effective to keep the sanitary and storm sewer systems separated. Please help us to serve you better and keep the rates you pay as reasonable as possible by separating your wastewater and stormwater.



PO Box 3487, 3030 S. 240th St., Kent, WA 98089, (206) 824-4960
<http://www.midwaysewer.org/>

Inside this issue:

Storm Water in the Sanitary Sewer Costs Us All 1

So Much Food and So Little Time 2

Save Money— Don't Ignore Your Sewer Bill 2

Special points of interest:

- Midway Sewer District has one of the lowest monthly rates in the state.
- The Board meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Please contact the office for the meeting time.
- Midway serves the Cities of Des Moines, SeaTac, Kent, Federal Way, Normandy park, Burien, and the Port of Seattle's SeaTac Airport.
- We have been part of this community since 1946.
- You can expect fast personal service when you need it.
- Our employees care about their customers.
- We have a single focus of providing quality sanitary sewer service.

So Much Food and So Little Time

By: Vince Koester, Commissioner

It is well known that I really like hamburgers! I consider myself an expert on the subject of hamburgers and the anatomy of a good burger. But my love of food does not stop there. I like to cook and the holiday season is a great opportunity to prepare some really big meals. I know first hand how much grease and other drippings can come off of a turkey, ham or roast when cooked. Before I was a Commissioner for the Sewer District I did not realize the impact improperly disposed of food waste, oil, and grease had on the sewer system. High cholesterol can clog your arteries and fats, oils and grease can clog not only your pipes but also the pipes out in the streets. Since my enlightenment, I am very careful to drain my grease and oil in a container and place it in the garbage. Someday I hope to be able to contribute my household grease and oil to a bio-diesel maker, so it can be used beneficially, instead of sending it to a landfill. The District Manager has been after me to stop using my garbage disposal, but I have to draw the line somewhere. He also wants me to also throw food scraps, peelings and the like in the yard waste container or compost pile instead of the trash.



Save Money - Don't Ignore Your Sewer Bill

By: Ken Kase

We are all in tough economic times. Everybody must do more with less. Sometimes we have to decide which bills to pay first. Sanitary sewer service is not discretionary and the bills are not excusable. Our bills are sent out every other month. Like most bills, our bills have an allowable period of time to pay before it is considered late or past due. Once your account is past due a 10% late payment penalty is added to the account.

On more seriously past due accounts, the District files liens against the **property**. Landlord's should take note: When sewer bills go unpaid by tenants, it could result in one or more liens against the property **you** own. A lien currently costs \$63 to file and \$63 to release. These filing costs are determined by the King County Recorders office and we simply pass these costs on.

If you have a lien filed due to non-payment please do not ignore this debt. Often times the District will file up to 3 liens on a property before it will take the most drastic measures available to collect unpaid sewer debts. If all other collection measures fail the District will foreclose on a property. This will add a significant amount to the original sewer bill and could result in the loss of your property.

On a typical residential account a late payment penalty is \$4. Each time a lien is filed it adds \$126 to an account. Foreclosure can easily add \$1,000 or more to cover the cost of a title search, attorney's fees, and court costs.

If you are having trouble paying your sewer bill, contact our office and make arrangements to pay your bill. We also accept Visa and Mastercard payments for your convenience. If you qualify, you may be able to benefit from the Midway Assistance Program (MAP fund) administered by the Salvation Army (253-946-7933).

Save yourself a considerable amount of time and money and keep your sewer account current, it's worth it!

Board of Commissioners



George Landon Jack Hendrickson Vince Koester



Midway Sewer District

PO Box 3487
3030 South 240th Street
Kent, WA 98089
<http://www.midwaysewer.org/>

