

DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

www.donalawater.org

NOVEMBER 2019

Once Again, Be Aware of FOG

I know that we recently covered this topic, however it is important to reiterate the effects of FOG. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and this is when most wastewater treatment facilities encounter the largest influx of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG). FOG consists of fat from animal meats, shortening, butter, bacon grease, food scraps, salad dressings and marinades; just to name a few. Anything that has fat, oil or grease in it is a culprit.

Last year, the Upper Monument Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility (your waste treatment plant) experienced a huge amount of FOG during the holiday season. This meant special, expensive, treatment to get the facility back under control. This gets expensive in the form of chemicals and manpower. The second problem to us, and probably foremost to you, is that your own household sewer lines can get clogged with that same FOG. What customers send down the drain doesn't always make it to our treatment facility. Some of that same FOG stays in household wastewater lines and starts coating your lines (much like cholesterol in our arteries). Hot soapy water does not clean out those lines. As that FOG builds up, your wastewater lines clog up more and more. Below is a list of Do's and Don'ts:

- Don't put anything with fat, oil or grease down the drain. **Used oil can be dropped off at El Paso County Household Chemical Waste Collection at no charge. 3255 Akers Dr. 719-520-7878.**
- Before rinsing out pans, wipe out the grease first with a paper towel. Then rinse with cold water so the residual grease will flush as it is and not congeal to the sides of your pipes.
- Be careful using chemicals to clear grease clogs as they can damage your plumbing. Make sure you know what kind of piping you have prior to pouring chemicals down the drain.

Other culprits are dairy products such as old milk, buttermilk, yogurt and sour cream. Not only is the fat content a problem, but dairy products change the Ph balance in the waste treatment plant which essentially kills off the good bacteria used to treat waste. When this happens, it is virtually impossible to bring back the bacteria in the colder temperatures of Fall, Winter and Spring.



Board Workshop

On November 21st the Board of Directors will hold an informal workshop to discuss matters facing the District in the coming years. Issues such as the rising costs of providing services, procurement of additional water resources, new Federal and State Clean Water Standards that are under development and how they will impact the operations of the Upper Monument Regional Waste Water Treatment Facility, potential wastewater regionalization and similar topics. This workshop will allow the Board and staff to have discussions in an informal setting without the time limits imposed by a formal meeting. This workshop is open to the public and has been published as such. The workshop will begin at 9:00 am and will adjourn no later than 5:00 pm. It is not anticipated that any formal action on any of the discussion topics will be taken during this workshop.

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IF YOU TAKE A TRIP, LEAVE A DRIP

One important trick to remember over the winter is to open a faucet to a small drip if you are going to be away from home for a long time. If possible, make it a faucet that is at the other end of the house from your water meter (this will keep the whole system moving) and/or at a faucet whose pipes are in the north wall as they get the coldest. By doing this, you should still use only a minimal amount of water for the month and avoid the headaches of burst pipes when you return from your trip. Another solution may be to turn off the supply to the house completely with the inside valve when you go on a trip.

For all of our customers, especially during the winter, if you see water coming out of your neighbors' home, please call us immediately. I recall an instance where a house was not occupied, and the owner had turned the heat off, but not the water. It was a two-story home and there were sheets of ice coming out of the second floor. The house was a total loss.

- Turn the heat down, but not off
- Turn the water off, or...
- Leave a drip to keep the water moving.

Water Facts

1. The average American uses 140-170 gallons of water per day.
2. 3% of the Earth's water supply is fresh water, however 2.5% of the fresh water is trapped in glaciers, polar ice caps, atmosphere and soil, is highly polluted or lies too far under the earth's surface to be extracted at an affordable cost.
3. The human body is about 75% water.
4. A leaky faucet can waste upwards of 100 gallons a day.
5. An 8-minute shower averages 40 gallons of water.
6. More than half the people in the U.S. get their water from groundwater.
7. 8% of the water used in the U.S. is for domestic use.
8. 4" of snow equates to 1 cm of rain.
9. Leaving the water running while brushing your teeth wastes approximately 5 gallons.
10. Most lawns only need an inch of water each week.

Your General Manager,

Kip Peterson

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

