



# CONSOLIDATED SEWER MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

The sewer system in your community is operated and maintained by the County of Los Angeles Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District (District) and is managed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Sewer Maintenance Division. The District provides a wide range of services, including sewer manhole inspections, sewer line cleaning, sewer system repair, and responding to service calls relating to sewer overflows, odor problems, insect infestation, and other emergencies. If you experience or observe any sewer-related problems simply call our emergency Hotline at 1-800-675-HELP (4357), 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

## Areas Served by the Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District

**Unincorporated County:** (individual areas are not listed)

**Cities:**

Agoura Hills	Diamond Bar	La Mirada	Rolling Hills Estates
Artesia	Duarte	Lawndale	Rosemead
Baldwin Park	Glendora	Lomita	San Dimas
Bellflower	Hawaiian Gardens	Malibu	Santa Clarita
Bell Gardens	Hidden Hills	Palos Verdes Estates	Santa Fe Springs
Bradbury	Industry	*Palmdale	South El Monte
Calabasas	Irwindale	Paramount	Temple City
Carson	La Cañada-Flintridge	Pico Rivera	Walnut
Commerce	La Habra Heights	Rancho Palos Verdes	Westlake Village
Cudahy	Lakewood	Rolling Hills	West Hollywood

\* Limited service on contracted basis



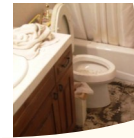
**County of Los Angeles**  
Department of Public Works  
Sewer Maintenance Division  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

## CONSOLIDATED SEWER MAINTENANCE DISTRICT FACILITIES

Sewer Lines	4,600 miles
Manhole Structures	103,706
Sewage Pump Stations	155
Wastewater Treatment Plants	4
Cities Served by the District	40
Sewer Maintenance Yards	5

The following items were some of the major District wide accomplishments during the last fiscal year (July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012).

- 1,845 miles of sewer lines cleaned
- 191,443 manhole structures inspected
- 1,840 manholes raised to street level
- 1,066 responses to service requests
- 1,325,890 feet inspected using closed-circuit television
- 64,502 feet treated for root intrusion
- 14,764 pump station inspections
- 341 major pump station repairs
- 162 parcels annexed into the District
- 34,756 feet of sewer lines rehabilitated/reconstructed
- 3 miles of sewer lines added
- 66 overflows and/or flood-outs



▶ PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM SEWER BACK-UPS..... 1



▶ WHAT IS SAFE FOR THE DRAIN ..... 2



▶ JUST CAN IT!..... 3

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# CONSOLIDATED SMD

“WE PROVIDE SEWER MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN A HIGHLY EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE, AND RESPONSIVE MANNER.”

## SEWER BACKWATER VALVE PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM SEWER BACKUPS

No one will tell you that you need it until it happens – the sewer backs up into your house and you are left with a mess to clean up. That is generally when you find out about a “backwater” valve.

**Do you need one? A sewer backwater valve.**

Sewers can back up because of blockages in the sewer lateral connecting your house to the sewer mainline or from an obstruction in the public sewer mainline. A number of things can cause this blockage including deep rooted trees and bushes planted above or near the house sewer lateral, storm debris, and garbage improperly

thrown into the sewer. Often, blockages occur in areas where the terrain is hilly or where homes have plumbing fixtures below the sewer grade.

You should verify that you have a backwater valve and make sure it is properly working. It is typically required by County/City code and when properly installed and maintained in the lateral sewer line, prevents sewage from traveling back up the sewer line and into your house.

The backwater valve and the sewer lateral are not a part of the public sewer system. They are your

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Who Should I Call?

If you are not sure whether it is our line or yours that is causing the sewer backup, you can call our Help Line and we will check it out for you.

**1-800-675-HELP (4357)**



For more information, learn about the Department of Public Works, or to report problems online, please visit our website at [www.dpw.lacounty.gov](http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov).





## Know what should go down the drain that is sewer safe!

It's simple, the toilet is only meant to flush the three P's—pee, poop and paper. Human waste and toilet paper should be the only thing going down the toilet. Unfortunately, over the years, people have turned the toilet into a trash can. From medications and personal hygiene products to deceased pet fish and cigarette butts, if it fits, people flush it. Flushing these types of items down the toilet causes home pipes to clog, wastes water and most importantly can have a huge impact on our sewers and even our ocean.

The toilet is not the only drain that people are using to get rid of unwanted waste; people are also known to use the kitchen sink as a trash can. Since the invention of the garbage disposal, which claims to grind even the hard stuff such as small bones and fruit peels, people have turned the sink drain into a common destination for kitchen waste. Again, as long as it fits, people throw it or pour it down the drain. Letting trash flow and go down the kitchen sink (or any other drain in the house) may cause pipes to clog and can eventually lead to sewage spills that harm the environment or potentially backup into the home.

### Items commonly flushed that should NOT be going down the toilet or drain:

ITEM	REASON	DISPOSAL METHOD
<b>Sanitary Products, Paper Towels, Diapers, Baby Wipes and Facial Tissues</b>	These items are made of materials that don't break down in the sewer line and can cause all pipes to clog.	Trash
<b>Prescription Drugs, Over-The-Counter Medications</b>	Medications contain chemicals that you don't want entering the wastewater supply.	Make them undesirable, such as crushing them and then mixing with coffee grounds, kitty litter, or dirt before sealing them in a plastic bag and disposing in the trash. <a href="http://WWW.NODRUGSDOWNTHE DRAIN.ORG">WWW.NODRUGSDOWNTHE DRAIN.ORG</a>
<b>Kitty Litter</b>	Litter will eventually clog your pipes, even the ones that claim to be "flushable." Additionally, Toxoplasmosis, a parasite found in cat waste is harmful to marine biology.	Trash
<b>Condoms and Dental Floss</b>	They don't biodegrade and can cause pipes to clog.	Trash
<b>Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)</b>	FOG sticks to the interior surface of the sewer pipes, hardens over time and eventually may cause sewage to backup and lead to a sewage spill in your home or on our streets. Running hot water as you pour the grease down the drain will not help either.	Let the F.O.G cool/harden, mix it with other absorbent materials, place it in a bag or container and then throw it in the trash.
<b>Food</b>	Using the drain as a dump will have unforeseen consequences of clogging sewer lines and possible backups in your home.	Compost what you can and wipe or scrape the remnants in the trash. Use a drain screen in your sink to catch any remaining bits of food as you wash the dishes. Use your garbage disposal sparingly.
<b>Coffee grounds and eggshells</b>		Never put them in the garbage disposal., dispose of in the trash.
<b>Hair</b>	Hair will catch and stick to other items and is very difficult to get out of piping once it gets in.	Using a fine drain screen to catch hair in your bathtub and shower and dispose of it properly in the trash.
<b>Household hazardous materials (motor oil, pesticides, paint and solvents)</b>	All of these are highly toxic and will cause long term damage to the environment.	Dispose at a household hazardous waste collection center where these and other household items can be dropped off. <a href="http://WWW.CLEANLA.ORG">WWW.CLEANLA.ORG</a>

### The only thing that should be going down the drain is what comes out of the faucet!

Let's keep our wastewater flowing and our oceans clean. Educate yourself and others. Know **What 2 Flush** and what to put down the drain. Protect our sewers and environment!  
(Adapted from [www.ocsewers.com](http://www.ocsewers.com))

## JUST CAN IT!

Doing dishes, cleaning that fry pan full of grease? Don't think you can just pour it in the sink and down the drain!

There is a no mess and no worries solution. Simply put all your Fats, Oils, and Grease (F.O.G.) in an empty can or heat safe container with a lid. Use it as a temporary storage until you are ready to throw it in the trash can.



**BE SMART** and keep your sewer line clean. Routinely maintain your sewer line by hiring a plumber to televise your line to ensure there are no obstructions.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or comments regarding this Annual Report:

Call (626) 300-3399 or

Visit our website at [www.dpw.lacounty.gov/smd/smd](http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/smd/smd) or follow us @LAPublicWorks

Please send all written inquiries to:

County of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Works  
Sewer Maintenance Division  
P.O. Box 1475  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1475

### Protecting your home from sewer backups

(Continued from page 1)

responsibility and they are generally installed by the contractor who constructed your residence. Maintenance of the sewer lateral and the valve is the responsibility of the property owner.

#### How do I know if I need a backwater valve?

Determining whether your house needs a backwater valve can be done by sight inspection. Find out where the lowest drain is located within your home and then determine if that drain is above or below the elevation of the next upstream manhole. If you are unsure, have a plumber, contractor, or your local building and safety officials verify these elevations to determine if one is required.

#### How do I maintain my backwater valve?

If you have a valve, have it inspected periodically to make sure that it is still functioning and has not been damaged over the years.

