

Instructions for Residents on Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Your wastewater rates are based on maintenance costs. To keep rates to a minimum, your cooperation is requested regarding the following points:

The use of garburators is strongly discouraged as they increase the organic loading on the facilities. This increase will adversely affect the treatment process resulting in higher operation costs and higher user fees.

Non-biodegradable material such as disposable diapers, feminine hygiene and sanitary wipes, rubber items, cigarette filters/butts, hair, etc., should **not** be flushed down the toilet. Please put them in the garbage. If these materials enter the wastewater treatment plant, they may cause an interruption in the treatment process and necessitate frequent cleaning of plant components and result in unnecessary service expense.

Bacteria used to decompose domestic liquid waste, is sensitive, particularly to strong chemicals. High strength chemicals, such as acid, caustic cleaners, gasoline, oil, turpentine or those used for developing photographs should **not** be dumped into the wastewater facility. Disposal of cleaning disinfectants and the use of chlorine bleaches in laundering should be kept to normal domestic use. In cities and towns, these harmful chemicals are diluted to safe concentrations by the large flows through municipal plants, but in on-site treatment plants the harmful effects of these chemicals can become apparent. Automatic flush disinfectants such as "Tidy-bowl" and "Sani-flush" are particularly harmful to all forms of biological wastewater treatment and should **not** be used.

Use of low-suds, biodegradable laundry detergents is recommended. Liquid is preferable to powder as it breaks down quicker. Excessive use of detergents can cause foaming and odour problems in treatment plants. When laundering clothes, please follow washing machine or laundry detergent manufacturers' recommendations regarding the quantity of detergents required. As most waters in B.C. are fairly soft, the quantity of detergent required may often be reduced even further without adversely affecting the quality of the wash and with resulting saving for the homeowners. There should be only enough soap added to create a few visible bubbles on the surface, more than this is usually money wasted. Cold water washing is **not** recommended in conjunction with Package Sewage Treatment Plants as lower temperatures decrease treatment efficiency.

The Package Sewage Treatment Plant is designed to handle a certain amount of fat and grease as part of normal domestic loading. Compared to pure liquid waste, fat and grease take a large amount of oxygen and a very long time to decompose. For this reason, do **not** intentionally pour large amounts of grease into wastewater lines (i.e. left over grease in a frying pan). All waste grease should be put in a glass jar or an old milk carton and placed in the garbage.

The practice of leaving a tap running in cold winter months to avoid freezing pipes will result in poor wastewater treatment and an overloaded treatment plant.

Please ensure roof or perimeter drains are not connected to the wastewater connection as this will also result in an overloaded plant.