

the SOOS CREEK

CON NECTION

www.sooscreek.com

JUNE/JULY 2014

You Flushed WHAT?

When you use your toilet, shower, washing machine or dishwasher, wastewater leaves your home through pipes that connect to the District's sewer system. Materials flushed down the toilet can clog or damage your household plumbing as well as the District sewer system. Not only are these problems expensive to fix, they can cause sewer backups in your home, business, and the environment.

The only thing you should flush down a toilet is human waste (urine and feces) and toilet paper. Even disposable items that are labeled "flushable" should not be flushed down your toilet. "Wipes, even "flushable" wipes may go down the toilet, but they are not breaking down as they course through the sewer system. They rip and tear but they are still intact and clog the sewer system," said General Manager Ron Speer. It is costly to dispatch crew personnel to unclog pipes and pumps and to replace and upgrade machinery. Help the District keep its sewer system sustainable and sewer rates stable by disposing items in the garbage.

Summer Water Conservation Rates in Effect

*REMINDER: The District purchases its water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). As a means to encourage conservation, SPU charges a 20% conservation increase in the wholesale cost for the period of May 16 through September 15. Soos Creek will pass this increase on to our customers.



Summer conservation rates will again be in effect for the June – September billing periods, and will be 20% higher than winter rates for the portion of bi-monthly consumption that exceeds 1,000 cubic feet.

UTILITY RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM

During 2013, 62 low-income permanently disabled and 249 low income senior citizens took advantage of the 30% base rate discount offered through this program. The total annual cost of the program was \$24,639.92. Based on equivalent residential units, this translates into an annual cost of 40 cents for all water customers and 43 cents for all sewer customers.

The discount does not apply to the King County Sewage Treatment charge, actual water consumption, street lighting, surcharges, and miscellaneous fees or late charges. If you would like an application for the District's Utility Rate Reduction Program, contact us at (253) 630-9900.

Don't Flush

Band-aids, cat litter, chemicals, cigarettes, cleaners, coffee grounds, condoms, cooking fats, cotton balls, dental floss, diapers, dirt, ear swabs, egg shells, facial tissue, fertilizer, glue, goldfish, grease, hairballs, herbicides, hygiene products, lint, medicines, oil, paint, paper towels, pesticides, pet waste, pills, pins, plastic bags, products claiming to be flushable, nursing pads, rags, razors, rubber gloves, scrub pads, spoiled food, toys, twist ties, vitamins, wipes, wrappers, etc.



Graphic Courtesy of LOTT Clean Water Alliance

Flushing for Water Quality

A key to maintaining drinking water quality is the proper management of the water distribution system. Soos Creek Water & Sewer District (SCWSD) obtains your water from the Cedar River Watershed located in a remote and uninhabited area of the Cascade Mountains. This pristine water is screened, disinfected with chlorine, and fluoridated. A small amount of lime is also added to control corrosion to pipes. Ozonation (a form of oxygen used for disinfection) improves taste, and ultraviolet light (UV) kills disease causing organisms.

SCWSD personnel maintains that water quality with testing and flushing of the water in the distribution system. It is important for drinking water to remain fresh and retain sufficient chlorine for disinfection. To accomplish this, SCWSD personnel tracks water quality service orders and maintains a chlorine-monitoring database to help identify problem areas. They target problem areas to prevent water quality problems before they exist. This allows the District to minimize staff time and use water efficiently.

Staff will open hydrants and blow-offs to flow water at high velocities to scour the pipe and remove turbidity due to the scouring and to improve chlorine levels. The water may become yellow or even brown at this point and staff will continue to flow water until the water becomes clear again. To be environmentally safe, the flushed water is de-chlorinated and directed to the sewer or storm drains.

When you see our crews out flushing, please slow down and “give them a brake”, and remember that the District is working so you can enjoy the high quality drinking water you have come to expect. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at 253-630-9900 or e-mail us at customer_service@sooscreek.com.

How Does Conserving Water Help Salmon?

During warmer months, SPU depends on water stored in their mountain reservoirs to meet customer demand while leaving enough water in the rivers for fish. By using water wisely, you will help keep water in the rivers and streams for salmon and other species that live in and around our streams. It's especially important to conserve water in summer and fall when stream flows are lowest. Your action to use water wisely will help protect precious freshwater habitat. Witness your work when salmon make their annual migration home to our local streams. Look for the “Salmon SEEson” campaign this summer and fall for the latest on where the fish will be and when. Visit <http://bit.ly/SalmonSEEson> for more information.



Problems With Your Sewer? Call Us First!

If you experience problems with your sewer, call the District first before contacting a private service provider. This could potentially save you hundreds of dollars. The District is responsible for the sewer pipe in the street and to your property line. You, as the homeowner or business owner, are responsible for the sewer pipe on your private property. We further recommend that you get a minimum of three bids for any repair job. This simple process could save you money.



If a private company does any work to a sewer line at your home or business, have them call our emergency number at 253-630-9900. We want to inspect such work to ensure that the sewer line on your property and the District's main line are working together properly.

Water Quality Report – Coming Soon

What makes our water so good? Find out by reading the District's Drinking Water Quality Report. Find it in your mailbox by July 1st

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Soos Creek, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer services in an efficient, cost effective manner.

SOOS CREEK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

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COMMISSIONERS

Gary Cline
Alice Marshall
Darold Stroud
Steve Pfaff
Larry West

GENERAL MANAGER

Ron Speer

Meetings are held the first, third & fourth
Wednesdays of the month @ 4:30 p.m.