Department of Public Utilities
City of Orangeburg
Wastewater Division

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The Wastewater Division is one of four notable divisions of the Department of Public Utilities. We provide quality sewer service through exceptional customer service, a broad, well-maintained wastewater collection system, and a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant. We provide our customers with this exceptional service while maintaining our rates among the lowest in South Carolina.

Wastewater Collection System

The wastewater collection system serves approximately 9000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers through a combination of gravity collection lines, pumping stations, and force mains. Our Personnel are on call 24 hours a day to address any emergency situations.

The collection system is maintained by our well trained Wastewater Collection System Crew. All crew members are certified by the Water and Pollution Control Association of South Carolina. The crew provides quality wastewater service, installs new services, repairs existing services, clears and cleans blocked wastewater mains and performs routine maintenance.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The wastewater treatment plant discharges into the North Fork Edisto River, and has a design capacity of 9 million gallons per day with a current available capacity of 4 million gallons per day. The wastewater treatment plant consists of a secondary biological wastewater treatment system, biosolids dewatering facilities, and a biosolids dryer that produces Class A exceptional quality biosolids suitable for use in horticulture and landscaping.

Wastewater Biosolids

In the United States, all biosolids recycling must meet strict quality criteria and regulations set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of these standards is to establish numerical, management, and operational standards for the use or disposal of biosolids that are applied to land or placed on a surface disposal site. Our wastewater treatment and drying process produces Class “A” exceptional quality biosolids.

Wastewater biosolids are a nutrient rich organic material resulting from the treatment of wastewater. They are the biologically processed solids that have been separated from the liquid portion of municipal wastewater. They contain essential plant nutrients and organic matter, and are a beneficial soil conditioner. Around the world, applying biosolids to agricultural land for crop production has been a common practice for decades. They also can be used in forestry and landscaping applications. Using biosolids in this manner is considered a form of recycling.

The Wastewater Division was the recipient of an Engineering Excellence Award from the American Consulting Engineers Council, and a Keep America Beautiful Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Award for the Biosolids Drying Facility. All biosolids generated at the Orangeburg Wastewater Treatment Facility are now sold to local agriculture operations, thereby eliminating the social and economic costs associated with landfill disposal.

Smoked, Dyed, and Televised

Ways and Reasons to Fix Sewer Defects On Private Property

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, constrain economic Growth, and result in long-term environmental damage. These problems can be prevented by finding and fixing sewer defects on private property.

Infiltration occurs when groundwater enters the sanitary sewer system through defects in the system. Inflow occurs when stormwater/rainwater enters the sanitary sewer system through defects and illegal connections in the system.

How a Sewer System Works

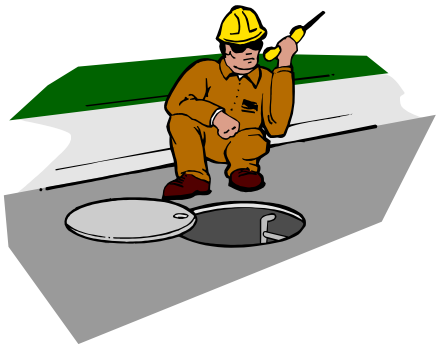
Most sanitary sewer systems are constructed as a network of manholes and pipes that flow from each building that generates sewage to a wastewater treatment plant. Private services are pipes from the building to the sewer main. Defects on private services include, missing cleanout caps, broken cleanouts, broken service lines, sump pump flows and stormwater flow from downspouts, area drains, basement drains, stairwell and window well drains.

Eliminating Private Service Line Defects

Eliminating private service line infiltration and inflow defects can be as simple as replacing a cleanout cap. Other defect repairs may require an entire service lateral to be replaced and may require hiring a licensed plumber. Cost of repairs can range from $2.00—$2000.00.

Many agencies are developing programs to eliminate private service infiltration land inflow defects. Programs include:

- ►Locating the defects
- ►Educating the public
- ►Using ordinances to enforce the repair
- ►Smoke Testing, Dye Testing
- ►Televising



In an effort to eliminate storm water nfiltratin into the DPU wastewater collection system, DPU is conducting smoke testing of the wastewater collection system. Deficiencies found during smoke testing are documented and property owners are notified to make the necessary corrections and/or repairs.

As stated in the City of Orangeburg Code of Ordinances 23-54.3 (h), no person shall allow sources of surface water or ground water to enter a building sewer which is directly or indirectly connected to the wastewater collection system.

We will continue our efforts to eliminate stormwater infiltration into the DPU wastewater collection system. Excessive stormwater increases treatment cost, reduces the carring capacity of existing lines and increases operation and maintenance cost, all of which are passed on to the customer.

For additional information or questions, please call the Wastewater Division at 803-268-4504.

FATS, OILS & GREASE

Fats, oils, and greases aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they are bad for sewers, too. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Where does the grease come from?

Most of us know grease as the byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as : meat fats, lard cooking oil, shortening, butter and margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, and dairy products. Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain. Commercial additives, including detergents, that claim to dissolve grease may pass grease down the line and cause problems in other areas.

The results can be:

- ►Sewage overflowing in your home
- ►An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the homeowner
- ►Sewage overflowing into the environment
- ►Potential contact with disease-causing organisms
- ►An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers

What can we do to help?

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place.

There are several ways to do this.

Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills, and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available). Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain backets/strainers into the trash for disposal. Be cautious of chemicals and additives (including soaps and detergents) that claim to dissolve grease. Some of these additives simply pass grease down pipes where it can clog the sewer lines in another area.

For aditional information or questions, please call the Wastewater Division at 803-268-4504.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

To avoid dangerous situations and costly repairs, it is vital that utility Companies be notified before digging, as required by state law, even if you are digging with a shovel in your own yard. This is a simple process. Just call the Palmetto Utility Protection Service at least three (3) days in advance at the number listed below and all participating utilities will be notified. The P.U.P.S. representative can provide you with the information you need to ensure that the work you plan to do will be done safely.

Palmetto Utility Protection Service 1-888-721-7877