

Water. *lines*

BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
SERVING THE GREATER BIRCH BAY AREA SINCE 1968

The Importance of Keeping Stormwater Out

Birch Bay Water and Sewer would like to bring attention to the importance of keeping stormwater out of our sewer systems. The sanitary sewer system is primarily designed to carry wastewater from toilets, dishwashers, sinks and showers, rather than large volumes of stormwater. The addition of stormwater and groundwater to the sanitary sewer system increases the load reaching the treatment plant and raises costs.

Inflow and infiltration or I & I are terms used to describe the ways that groundwater and stormwater enter the sanitary sewer system.

INFLOW is stormwater that enters a sanitary sewer system at direct connections to the system. Sources of inflow include footing/foundation drains, roof drains, drains from driveways, down spouts and sump pumps. These sources are typically improperly or illegally connected to the sanitary sewer system, allowing water from sources other than sanitary fixtures to enter the system.

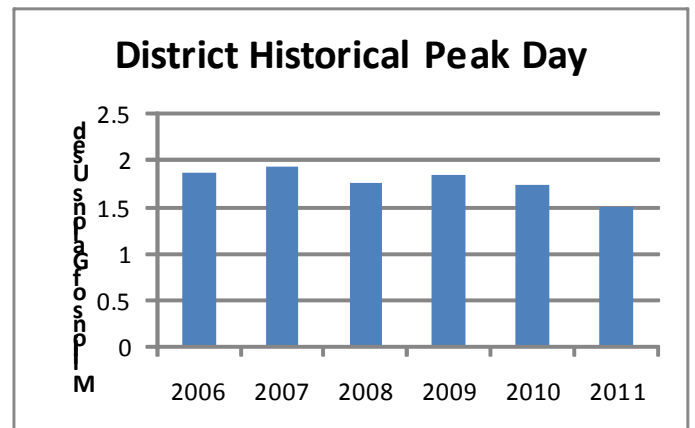
INFILTRATION is excess water that gets into the sanitary sewer system through open joints, cracked pipes and service laterals, separated joints in the pipe and unsealed or leaky manholes.

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Another Successful Summer!

Thanks to our customers' support for the District's conservation program, usage did not experience any significant spikes and remained below the District's historical peak record of 1.93 million gallons. The weather also contributed to the increased conservation effort at the District. Cooler temperatures and increased precipitation during the summer months reduced the stress normally applied to residential landscapes typically experienced here in Birch Bay. This resulted in a decreased need for outdoor watering.

As a result, the District was able to reliably serve its customers while keeping enough water in storage to provide for fire fighting and other contingencies. **THANKS FOR CONSERVING!**





Fats, Oils and Greases

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are an expensive problem for sewer systems. By doing your part at home, you can help to keep the District sewer system running efficiently.

FOG Build-up Can Cause:

- Raw sewage to overflow and back-up into households and businesses
- Reduce capacity and operation of wastewater treatment facilities
- Increase sewer rates due to expensive clean-ups and repairs of clogged pipes and pump stations

Sources of FOG:

Common household sources of FOG are food scraps, meat fats, lard, oil (frying, salad, cooking), margarine, butter, baking goods, sauces and dairy products.

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When excess I & I from groundwater or stormwater gets into the sanitary sewer system, it takes up space that could be carrying wastewater. If pipes become overloaded, there is a greater chance for overflow of wastewater flowing back into basements and households. In addition, the increase of non-wastewater in the system is treated as if it were wastewater when it reaches the treatment plant. The costs associated with processing the added water from I & I can be significant.

The District actively works to reduce inflow and infiltration (I & I) from groundwater and stormwater from our sanitary system through a comprehensive monitoring, maintenance and prevention program. This comprehensive program includes monitoring pipes through smoke testing and video inspection, maintaining pipes through sewer jetting to remove debris from the sewer line and repairing loose manhole covers and seals.



Published by

Birch Bay Water & Sewer
7096 Pt. Whitehorn Rd.
Birch Bay, WA 98230
Phone: (360) 371-7100
Fax: (360) 371-2806
Website: www.bbwsd.com

Commissioners:

Don Monfort
Carl Reichhardt
Patrick Alesse

General Manager:

Roger M. Brown

From Garbage to Garden: Compost

Composting is a great way to recycle yard waste food scraps and save money!

- Creates fertile, soil building material
- Recycles and adds nutrient and organic matter back into the soil
- Helps grow plants with less water, fertilizer or pesticides
- Keeps waste out of landfills and reduces your garbage bill
- Generates less waste. Compost is one solution to solid waste management problems.
- Helps keep fats, oils and greases (FOG) out of sewer systems

What can you compost?

- Leaves, grass clippings, dead plants, stalks, twigs
- Vegetable scraps, soiled paper, spoiled food
- NO meat, dairy or any animal product

Where can you use compost?

- Flower, garden beds
- Around trees and shrubs
- House plants and planter beds



SAVE THE DATE!

“Compost Workshop”

Date: September 20

Time: 6 pm - 8 pm

Place: Birch Bay Water & Sewer

Details: Come learn how to build your own compost bin and start composting in your backyard from the WSU Extension Carbon Master Coordinator. Free redworms available for all attendees while supplies last plus a drawing to take home the demonstration compost bins.

RSVP requested (*not required*): Ingrid