

Improvement District Services, Inc.
Administrators for the
American Ranch Domestic Water Improvement District
3603 Crossings Drive, Prescott, AZ 86305
Phone: (928) 443-9484/ Fax: (928) 443-9486
In-State Toll Free (800) 659-7149
jbartos@idsadmin.com

Important Notice to Property Owners

Recently the wastewater system experienced a dangerous upset due to an illegal discharge into the system. A large amount of green liquid was put down a drain and ended up in the wastewater treatment plant causing a chemical imbalance that will cost the District and its customers considerable money to clean up. We believe this discharge came from a residence as there are no other access points in the system.

We are sending this letter to remind our customers of the importance of maintaining a healthy wastewater system, along with a list of items that should not be disposed of in the sewer. The District has a \$500 per day fine for illegal discharge and access to the sewer system. So please be aware of what goes down your drain.

We ask that you help us serve you better (and at less expense) by keeping your sewer system free of debris and damaging chemicals. We have compiled a list of some typical household materials that should NOT be discharged into the wastewater system:

- No storm sewer, swimming pool or Jacuzzi backwash or drains, downspouts, arrangements which will permit surface run-off to enter the sanitary wastewater system, or volumes of water greater than 4,500 gallons that is discharged continuously.
- No substances or materials that could create a fire or explosion hazard including, but not limited to paints, varnishes, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel, motor oil, or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid, or gas.
- No materials that cause corrosive damage or hazard to structures, equipment, or personnel of the wastewater facilities such as acids, muratic acid, paint thinners, or acidic household cleaners.
- No items that cause obstruction to the flow in sewers, or other interference with the operation of wastewater facilities due to accumulation of solid or viscous materials – heavy or thick liquids, joint compounds, paint, drywall mud, construction cleanup, kitty litter or adhesives. (Kitty litter is also very corrosive)
- Solid materials should never be placed in a sewer system, such as: food waste that has not been properly shredded, dental floss, exam gloves, diapers, rags, towels, thick paper towels, feminine products, fabric and fibrous materials, dirt, grit, rocks, kitty litter, gravel and sand. Additionally, melon seeds accumulate rapidly and can clog the system because they do not get chopped up in the garbage disposal.
- No liquids that contain heat in amounts which will accelerate the biodegradation of wastes and thereby the formation of hydrogen sulfide in the sewer system or inhibit biological activity in the wastewater treatment facilities. Draining water heaters or flushing large quantities of hot water can make an impact on the temperature of the wastewater. It is critical to the operation of the treatment plant to maintain a certain temperature level.
- Fats, oils and grease wreak havoc on a wastewater system, sewer mainlines and your service line as well. Cooking grease and oils should be placed in the garbage. Motor oil, anti-freeze, paint, paint thinner and cleaning compounds should be disposed of at a recycling or landfill facility. It is unlawful to dispose of motor oil and anti-freeze in a sewer system or by pouring it on the ground.
- Materials that contain regulated metals such as photo developing material, silver, lead, mercury, selenium, barium, and arsenic should never be discharged into a wastewater system. It is unlawful to discharge regulated metals.
- Do not flush drugs into the sewer system as they are not removed from the discharge. Unused, unneeded or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs can be dropped off at the Police departments in Chino Valley, Prescott, and Prescott Valley as well as the Yavapai Sheriff.

Thank you!