An overflow of sewage inside your home is not only disgusting, it can damage your house and personal belongings. Many homeowners’ insurance policies do not cover the costs of damages or clean-up expenses, which can be significant.

Sewage overflows can occur when pipes are blocked by roots, grease buildup, or debris (such as so-called “flushable” wipes), causing sewage to back up in the pipe and spill from the first opening it comes to – usually a manhole in the street, but sometimes a drain inside your home.

An overflow of sewage inside your home is not only disgusting, it can damage your house and personal belongings. Many homeowners’ insurance policies do not cover the costs of damages or clean-up expenses, which can be significant.

(Please see OPDs on Page 2)
OPDs: Protect Your Property

There are different styles of Overflow Protection Devices. The “mushroom” style, pictured left, has been cut away to show the ball that sits on the pipe opening inside the metal covering. The style pictured at right (shown with the top popped up) is best for installing in driveways or other areas where above-ground protrusions are undesirable.

A Simple Device Can Help to Protect Your Home

The mess and expense of a sewage overflow inside your home can often be prevented by ensuring an Overflow Protection Device (OPD) is properly installed on the private side sewer pipe (lateral) that connects your plumbing to the public sewer main.

With an OPD installed on your lateral, sewage backing up in the pipe from the direction of the street will be released through the device into your yard, rather than inside your home. (A blockage in the pipe between your house and the OPD may still release sewage in your home.)

An OPD typically costs about $50 and can be purchased at a plumbing supply store. Installing the OPD can be relatively simple if there is a sewer cleanout on the lateral — you just replace the cap on the cleanout with the OPD. Alternatively, you can have a professional plumber determine whether an OPD is present and in good working order.

It’s a small investment to protect your property and give you peace of mind.

For more information, call the CCCSD Permit Counter staff at (925) 229-7371.

Our Responsibility or Yours?

If a sewage backup occurs, immediately call CCCSD at (925) 933-0993 or 933-0900. A crew will arrive within an hour. If they determine that the problem is in the public sewer line, they will clear the blockage and clean up the mess.

Most overflows, however, are caused by clogs in the lateral pipe that connects your plumbing to the public sewer line. This pipe (and the cost of its maintenance or repair) is the property owner’s responsibility; a plumber should be called to clear a blockage in this pipe.

For more information, call the CCCSD Permit Counter staff at (925) 229-7371.

It’s Not Only a Smart Investment, It’s Required by CCCSD

To help protect people, property and the environment from sewage overflows, the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) Code requires that an Overflow Protection Device (OPD) be installed on the sewer lateral of every residence and business within our service area. In addition, the Code states that any damage resulting from the absence or failure of an OPD is the responsibility of the property owner.

To see if your property has an OPD installed, check the sewer lateral cleanout, typically one to two feet from the structure. (It may be hidden by vegetation.) Alternatively, you can have a professional plumber determine whether an OPD is present and in good working order.

It’s a small investment to protect your property and give you peace of mind.

For more information, call the CCCSD Permit Counter staff at (925) 229-7371.

To function properly, the opening of the device must be at least 6 inches lower in elevation than the lowest drain.

How an Overflow Protection Device works

Wastewater flows from the building or house through a private side sewer that connects to the main sewer line. The Overflow Device allows an overflow to occur outside the building rather than inside.

The property owner maintains this portion of the sewer connection including the connection to the main sewer

Prevent sewage backups and messes like this!

For information about Overflow Protection Devices and all of CCCSD’s services, go to www.centrasan.org
Polluting the Bay with Pesticide Spray?

If you – or the professional pest control service you’ve hired – are spraying pesticides around the exterior of your home or business, you may unwittingly be contributing to the contamination of Suisun Bay with toxic pollutants.

We’re especially concerned about a group of pesticides known as pyrethroids.

Pyrethroids are synthetic (man-made) versions of pyrethrin, a natural insecticide found in certain species of chrysanthemum. Unlike natural pyrethrins that break down quickly in sunlight, synthetic pyrethroids can typically survive – and continue to be a threat to the environment – for several hundred days.

Although these pesticides were brought to the market as “safer” replacements for the highly toxic organophosphates chlorpyrifos and diazinon, which were banned for homeowner use years ago, the high-volume use of pyrethroids is cause for concern because they harm aquatic life, even at low concentrations.

These poisons are now among the most popular ingredients of pesticides sprayed around homes and commercial buildings to control ants, mosquitoes, fleas, flies, and cockroaches.

HOW THE SPRAY GETS INTO THE BAY

How can pesticides sprayed on your property pollute water several miles away? They hitch a ride on two modes of transportation:

1. Runoff. Water from sprinklers, irrigation and rain collects pesticides and other pollutants as it flows across the ground, into gutters, storm drains, creeks, and ultimately (untreated) into Suisun Bay.

2. Wastewater. When spraying pesticides, it’s easy to get some on your clothes. When those clothes are washed, the poisons go down the drain with the wash water. When you walk on ground or surfaces that have been sprayed, your shoes can track pesticides inside. When the floors are cleaned, the poisons go down the drain with the mop water. And during heavy rains, runoff water infiltrates the sewer system. While all wastewater is treated before being released into Suisun Bay, even our most advanced processes cannot remove all traces of toxic chemicals.

THREE WAYS TO PROTECT THE BAY

Here are three ways you can protect Suisun Bay from these toxic pesticides.

1. Don’t use pesticide sprays. To keep pests out of your home or building, consider alternatives such as eliminating entry points, keeping the area clean, and using less-toxic chemicals such as borates or boric acid, diatomaceous earth (DE), insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, and those contained in bait stations.

2. If spraying pesticides yourself, buy safer alternatives. Check labels carefully and avoid using pesticides containing pyrethroids (including permethrin, bifenthrin and deltamethrin). Don’t water your lawn or garden after spraying.

3. If you use a professional pest control service, ask them to provide greener alternatives or use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. IPM focuses on long-term prevention of pests and their damage through a combination of techniques such as habitat modification, biological control, and physical control. Pesticides are used only if truly necessary, rather than being sprayed on a calendar basis, and are selected to be effective against a specific pest while minimizing risks to you, your family and pets, wildlife, beneficial insects, and the environment as a whole. Consider hiring or switching to an EcoWise-Certified IPM Professional. EcoWise-Certified providers use effective, prevention-based methods, minimizing the need to use pesticides.

RESOURCES

For additional information about the EcoWise-Certified program, call (866) 858-6386 or visit www.ecowisecertified.org
Infrastructure Improvements

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District regularly maintains, repairs or replaces sewer lines and other elements of our 1,500-mile wastewater collection system to ensure continuous, trouble-free service for our 462,000 customers. We do our best to minimize the inconveniences our projects cause and appreciate your understanding.

Here’s a brief summary of some ongoing construction projects:

- **Walnut Creek**
  The Collection System Operations Department Administration, Crew and Warehouse Facility Project is redeveloping the District’s site at 1250 Springbrook Road. The project includes demolishing two structures, constructing a new building, and making site improvements such as grading, paving and landscaping. Expected completion: October 2011.

  The Walnut Creek Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 8, will be replacing 10,000 feet of small-diameter sewers in the Olympic Blvd. area from Tice Valley Blvd. to Newell Avenue. Expected construction start: July 2011.

- **Lafayette**
  The Lafayette Pleasant Hill Road Trunk Sewer Project will be installing 2,500 feet of new 15-inch sewer under Pleasant Hill Road between Springhill Road and Stanley Blvd., and upsizing 3,000 feet of 12-inch sewer to 18-inch sewer within residential streets south of Acalanes High School between Stanley Blvd. and Highway 24. Expected construction start: July 2011.

  The Lafayette Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 7, will be renovating 12,000 feet of small-diameter sewers in the St. Marys Road area from Moraga Road to Burton Valley. Expected construction start: July 2011.

- **Orinda**
  The South Orinda Sewer Renovations Project, Phase 5, will be replacing or renovating 11,000 feet of sewers in various locations of Orinda between Highway 24 and Glorietta Blvd. Expected construction start: July 2011.

For More Info…

Detailed maps for our projects are sent to affected residents and posted on our website, www.centralsan.org (check the links in the ‘Construction Zone’ box in the lower right corner of the home page).

For more information about these or other construction projects, please contact Community Affairs Representative Chris Carpenter at (925) 229-7200 or ccarp@centralsan.org

FAQs

This column answers your questions about CCCSD and protecting the environment. If you have a question, please call (925) 229-7313 or send an email to blowe@centralsan.org

Q: Do you provide tours of your treatment plant?
A: Yes. We are happy to provide free tours for residents of our service area who want to see how we clean wastewater to protect Suisun Bay.

Tours are offered for groups of five or more, ages 11 and older. We do not give individual tours, but individuals may join a scheduled group tour. The plant is an industrial site and is not suitable for young children, nor accessible to people who have difficulty walking.

For more information or to request a tour, please call Kit Ohlman at (925) 229-7329.

Q: Should I bring unwanted pesticides to the facility, even if the label says it’s okay to put them in the trash?
A: First, think of it this way – all pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides have one thing in common: “cides,” by definition, are meant to kill something. Most “cides” are toxic and can be harmful to humans and animals.

Second, know that just because some of the newer “cides” claim to be safer, this doesn’t mean they can be safely disposed of in the trash.

Please bring all unwanted “cides” to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Need a Guest Speaker for Your Group?

If your audience would be interested in hearing about CCCSD and our water pollution prevention efforts, we may be able to help! Call our Public InfoLine at (925) 335-7702 and leave a message about your event, and we’ll do our best to provide a speaker for you, free of charge.
Maintaining the Flow
What We’re Doing In Your Neighborhood And Why It’s Important To You

We collect and treat wastewater from about 462,000 residential and business customers within central Contra Costa County. Every toilet, sink, shower, bathtub, laundry hookup, drain – all of that used water flows to our treatment plant in Martinez – on average, 45 million gallons a day. If you took a bath every day, it would take 2,500 years to use 45 million gallons!

To reach the treatment plant, used water flows through a system of underground sewer pipes ranging in size from 6 to 102 inches in diameter. The entire system is about 1,500 miles long. That’s about the distance from Martinez to Austin, TX. Some of those pipes have been in the ground for 50 years or more.

Imagine the things that can go wrong when you combine large volumes of raw sewage, aging pipelines that can be easily clogged, and hundreds of thousands of people putting who-knows-what down their toilets and drains!

Don’t Worry – We’re On It!

To ensure a constant, efficient flow within those underground sewer pipes, we conduct critical cleaning, inspection, repair and replacement operations on an ongoing basis. Because you may experience some of the inconveniences of that work (construction noise, detours, traffic delays), it’s important to us that you understand what we’re doing and why it’s important to you.

Cleaning & Maintenance
As you know, trees are quite prevalent in our area. Unfortunately, their roots often infiltrate pipes and are the number-one cause of sewer clogs. The second leading cause of plugged sewers is grease, especially in pipes downstream of restaurants, commercial food preparation businesses and multi-family units. In third place and coming on strong are clogs caused by debris, including so-called “flushable” products.

Our crews use specialized techniques, vehicles and equipment to prevent and/or remove the build-up of those and other clog-causing stuff within our sewer pipes every day.

Repair & Replacement
Pipes age and weaken, populations expand and capacity requirements increase. Dilapidated or undersized sewers that no longer function properly must be repaired or replaced.

We do our best to keep you informed about our projects in your neighborhood.

Top 3 Ways to Prevent Sewer Back-Ups in Your Home

1. Ensure an Overflow Protection Device is properly installed on the private side-sewer pipe (lateral) that connects your plumbing to the public sewer main. (See cover article.)

2. Allow only water, human waste and toilet paper to be flushed down your drains. No grease, wipes (including flushable wipes), dental floss, disposable diapers or other items!

3. Catch potential problems early. If your sinks and drains are emptying more slowly than usual, your sewer may be clogging up. If you have trees in your yard, roots (the number-one cause of clogs) may be infiltrating your sewer pipe. Call a plumber before a slow-emptying drain becomes a sewer back-up!

If drains are backing up, turn off the water source (shower, faucet, etc.) and see if the backup stops. If it does, the problem is likely in your sewer lateral and you should call a plumber. If the backup does NOT stop, or if you’re not sure, call us immediately at (925) 933-0955.

In Summary
We hope this brief overview about the work we do and why it’s important helps to explain the necessity of our occasional presence in your neighborhood. We do our best to minimize the inconveniences our projects cause, but wouldn’t you rather have occasional traffic delays than sewer problems? We appreciate your understanding. If you have any questions about sewer work within your neighborhood, please call us at (925) 229-7200.
The Sewer Service Charge for our business customers depends on the composition and amount of sewage they produce. The FY 2011-2012 bill can be estimated by multiplying the FY 2009-2010 bill by 1.0906.

This is the District’s first rate increase since July 2008.

The Sewer Service Charge is collected by the County on the annual property tax bill as a line item labeled “CCCSD SEWER CHG.” It is a fee for services, not a tax.

The Sewer Service Charge provides approximately 60% of our overall revenue. It covers the cost of collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater for more than 462,000 residents and 15,000 businesses in central Contra Costa County. In addition, it helps fund the District’s capital improvements as well as operation of our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Most of the revenue from the Sewer Service Charge is applied to the operations and maintenance costs of running the District – including labor, benefits, chemicals, hauling and disposal, outside services, materials and supplies, utilities, routine repairs and maintenance. A portion of the Sewer Service Charge also goes toward the District’s capital budget that is used to design, construct, and rehabilitate sewer pipelines, pumping stations, and treatment plant facilities. About $28 of the FY 2011-2012 $30 increase will go specifically to the capital budget.

Other sources of revenue for the District include sewer connection fees for new sewer service, contract charges for District services provided for others, and a portion of local property taxes.

Why the Increase Was Needed

Despite our continued efforts to enhance revenue sources and cut spending – which include reducing operating expenses, cutting back on outside services, deferring repairs and maintenance, filling only essential positions, and spending down reserve funds – running a modern, high-quality wastewater collection and treatment system comes with a substantial price tag. As State and Federal environmental regulations become more stringent, collection and treatment costs increase accordingly. While our goal is always to give our customers maximum value for their money, we must still charge appropriate rates to meet our permit requirements, provide public health and environmental protection services demanded by the community, and maintain publicly funded assets.

After much consideration, the CCCSD Board determined that the two $30 rate increases to the annual Sewer Service Charge were necessary to cover rising costs associated with labor (particularly unfunded pension and health care liabilities), more stringent regulatory compliance, materials, fuel, and energy; and to help fund necessary capital improvements.

Proposition 218 Protests Received

Public utilities in California cannot raise rates without giving their constituents an opportunity to protest the proposed increase. In April, CCCSD sent a state-mandated Proposition 218 notification to more than 116,000 affected property owners about the proposed increase, announcing the public hearing at which the increase would be considered by the Board and providing instructions on how to protest the increase. If more than 50% of those 116,000 property owners protested the increase before or during the June 2 public hearing, the District would have been legally prohibited from raising the rates. The District received 149 protests.

If you have questions about your Sewer Service Charge, please contact us via email at rates@centralsan.org or call (925) 335-7739.
With the recent rate increase, residents in our service area now pay $28.42 per month for sewer service ($341 collected annually via property tax bills).

For $28.42 per month, residents receive:

• Continuous, reliable sewer service from one of the best wastewater collection and treatment utilities in the nation. For the past 13 years, CCCSD has had a perfect discharge record — zero violations of the permit that governs our wastewater treatment process and the quality of water we discharge into beautiful Suisun Bay. Considering the volume and variety of pollutants we must remove from the wastewater in order to protect public health and the environment, we feel that’s a record worth mentioning.

• An award-winning Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility where you can safely dispose of oil, paints, pesticides, chemicals, batteries, fluorescent lights and other hazardous materials (90% of which are reused or recycled) at no charge. You can also pick up free items dropped off at the facility that are still in usable condition.

• A professional, well-trained staff dedicated to providing you with exceptional customer service 24 hours a day. If you contact us about a sewer problem, a crew will respond in less than an hour.

• Valuable information about preventing pollution, using environmentally friendly alternatives to toxic chemicals, and being more green. We sponsor educational programs for students at local schools, and provide a wealth of helpful information on our website (www.centralsan.org), at public events, and in this newsletter.

We realize we’re “the only game in town” when it comes to providing your wastewater collection and treatment services. But that doesn’t mean we take you — or your money — for granted. We work hard to identify ways to save money and provide maximum value while maintaining, repairing and renewing the massive infrastructure (more than 1,500 miles of sewer pipelines and a state-of-the-art treatment plant) those services require.

We hope you feel you are getting your money’s worth.
San Ramon Begins Pick-Up Program for Household Hazardous Waste

According to the San Ramon Public Services Department, San Ramon residents can now have household hazardous waste (HHW) collected from their door-steps. Collections are arranged by phone or e-mail. For more information or to schedule a pick-up, call 800-449-7587 or visit www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/recycle/hazard.htm

Thank you...
for keeping hazardous wastes out of the environment!

Since our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility opened in 1997, people in our service area have brought in more than 22 million pounds of hazardous waste for recycling, reuse, or proper disposal!

Need More Space in Your Garage?
Start By Bringing Us Your Household Hazardous Waste

Got leftover paint? Want to get rid of it? How about dead batteries, burned-out fluorescent lights, used motor oil, brake or transmission fluids, antifreeze, solvents, wood stain, paint remover, pesticides, herbicides, cleaning products, or other chemicals?

Did you know it’s illegal in California to dispose of many of these things in the trash, on the ground, down household drains or storm drains? That’s because they are all forms of hazardous waste -- substances that can poison, corrode, react, or ignite when handled improperly -- and they can threaten public health and the environment.

We never want these materials to end up in our landfills or waterways!

Since it is bad for the environment to throw them away or dump them down the drain, what can you do? Bring them to our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. We want this nasty stuff! While you’re there, browse through our Reuse Room where we give away reusable items brought in by others -- such as paint, deck stain and household cleansers -- free.

ATTENTION: There are some restrictions on the types of hazardous waste we can accept, and State guidelines limit the amount you can transport in your car to 15 gallons or 125 pounds. Please keep each container size to five gallons or less.

Before you load up and head for the facility, call 1-800-646-1431 or visit www.centralsan.org for more information.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility
4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553-4392

HOURS
Residents: Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Reuse Room closes at 3:30 p.m.)
Businesses: Monday – Saturday, by appointment only
1-800-646-1431

Eligible Communities
Alamo, Blackhawk, Clayton, Concord, Clyde, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Walnut Creek and unincorporated Central County areas.

• From Hwy. 4 take the Solano Way exit.
• From I-680 take Hwy. 4 East to Solano Way exit.
Consider Products with “Designed for the Environment” Label

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced that more than 2,500 products are now authorized by the agency under its Design for the Environment (DfE) Safer Product Labeling Program to carry the DfE label. DfE-labeled products do not contain known chemicals of potential concern, like carcinogens, reproductive or developmental toxicants. Even minor product components, like dyes and fragrances, are screened for safety.

“EPA’s DfE Program helps empower people to choose products that are safer for their families and our planet,” said Steve Owens, assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

“The DfE program provides important information about the safety of certain products that contain chemicals and gives consumers confidence that DfE products meet rigorous requirements.”

The DfE label means that EPA has screened each ingredient for potential human health and environmental effects and that the product contains only ingredients that, in EPA’s scientific opinion, pose the least concern among chemicals in their class.

New DfE-approved products also will have to meet additional life-cycle requirements such as sustainable packaging and limits on volatile organic compounds.

Products that carry the DfE label include all-purpose cleaners, laundry and dishwasher detergents, drain line maintainers, car and boat care and other products. Using DfE-labeled products significantly reduces exposures to chemicals that may be of concern to people’s or environmental health.

For more information and a list of DfE-labeled products, visit: [http://epa.gov/dfe](http://epa.gov/dfe)
About CCCSD

Our mission as a Special District is to protect public health and the environment. We do this by collecting and treating wastewater, providing recycled water, and promoting pollution prevention. Our treatment plant in Martinez collects, treats, and disinfects an average of 45 million gallons of wastewater every day. Some treated wastewater is recycled (treated further) for irrigation use on golf courses and parks; the rest is released into Suisun Bay. We also operate a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and sponsor 11 pharmaceutical disposal collection sites.

Where to Call...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General information</td>
<td>(925) 228-9500 or <a href="http://www.centralsan.org">www.centralsan.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer overflows</td>
<td>(925) 933-0955 or 933-0990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plant InfoLine (Report Odors)</td>
<td>(925) 335-7703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Hazardous Waste InfoLine</td>
<td>(800) 646-1431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer connection permits/Permit Counter</td>
<td>(925) 229-7371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| To report illegal discharges into sewer system | (925) 229-7288 (during business hours)  
(925) 229-7214 (after hours) |
| Source Control                   | (925) 229-7288               |
| Job Hotline                      | (925) 229-7109 or www.centralsan.org |
| Student Education Programs       | (925) 229-7310 or www.centralsan.org |
| Public InfoLine                  | (925) 335-7702 or www.centralsan.org |

Board of Directors

Barbara D. Hockett, President
• James A. Nejedly, President Pro Tem • David R. Williams, Director
• Mario M. Menesini, Director • Michael R. McGill, Director

Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in the CCCSD Board Room, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez.

James M. Kelly, General Manager