

Fats, Oils and Grease - The Monster In the Sewer



It seems like forever since we have talked about FOG, aka Fats, Oils and Grease; and the issues surrounding the troubles they can cause in your sewer system. But it isn't just the sewer system that burps on FOG; it's the sewer service line from your sink all the way out

to the street. This is a small line by comparison to a sewer main, but it can cause expensive grief.

In my youth I thought that dumping bacon grease down the drain with the hot water running would ensure that the grease made it to the sewer; not likely. The grease cools and congeals in the service line. Over time this can cause sewer backups into your home and adjoining properties. Solution: don't pour grease or similar materials down your drain.

The problem can become more complex. Back in the olden days when I was a fire chief, one of the guys peeled something like eight potatoes and some eggs for potato salad. What a combo! Potato peels can be a killer on your garbage disposal and service line. Add some eggs shells, maybe throw in some carrot peelings,

and you have the potential for an expensive plumbing job. Already struggling with fats, oils and grease, the poor sewer main now has to deal with these other clog producing products.

Did you know, by using a special robotic video camera, NUD technicians can track fats, oils and grease back to the source? It is unlawful to discharge fats, oil and grease into the sanitary sewer system. While single family residences, condominium complexes and apartments can produce a great deal of FOG, we focus primarily on inspecting restaurants that have not initiated a program to capture these harmful materials. When discovered, we require them to establish a program to capture the grease, and help us save the sewer main.

As a homeowner, these products poured down the drain can cause severe damage over time when mixed with garbage, wet wipes, tree roots and other debris which can cause pipes to deteriorate and leave you as the homeowner with a big, messy, and expensive, problem. ♦

- Robert Peterson, Commissioner

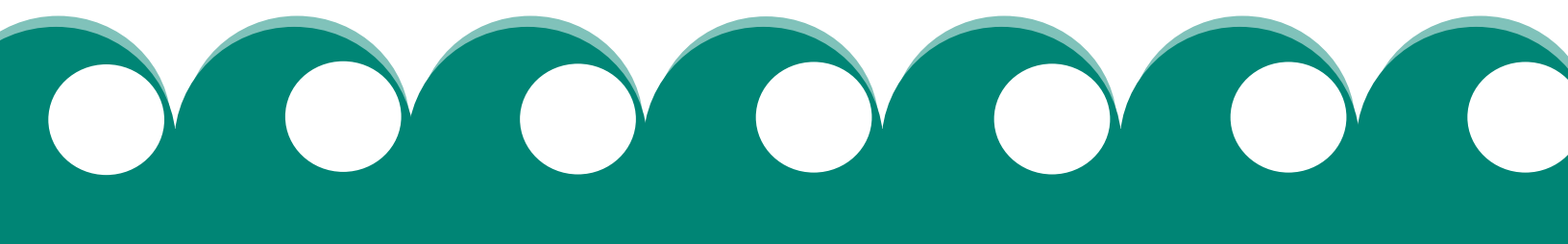


Email Reminders & One-Time Bill Payments

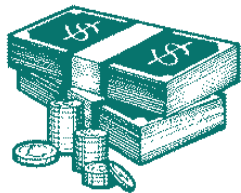
Have you signed up for e-mail account notifications? NUD will send you an e-mail reminder when your statement is ready for viewing on-line, when your 5% discount is about to expire, when your bill is about to become past due, and when there has been a credit or charge posted to your account. **These notifications will not replace the billing statement you receive in the mail. This is just an added courtesy service to help you keep track of your bill.**



We also have expanded our on-line service to include a one-time payment option. Go to <https://customers.nud.net> to set up your notifications or make a one-time payment. If you have any further questions, please call the Finance Department at (425) 398-4402. ♦



NUD Customers Received Over \$23K in Rebates for 2012



In 2012, 90 of our customers took advantage of the various incentive programs offered by the District and received \$23,044

in rebates. In addition, many also took advantage of the free low-flow shower head exchange program available from the District.

These rebates and water-saving devices are offered to our customers through the Regional Water Conservation Program. The District takes part in the program as a wholesale customer of Seattle Public Utilities. These rebates and free water-saving devices are provided by Seattle Public Utilities. The District pays for the program as part of the wholesale supply contract.

There are many rebate programs for which our customers are eligible:

- **Multi-family Toilet Replacement Program** – This \$100 rebate is for replacing an older toilet with a new water-efficient toilet in apartments or condos, with four or more units. New WaterSense labeled toilets use 1.28 gallons per flush (GPF), compared to older toilets installed prior to 1994 which use 3.5 GPF, or more!

- **Water Efficient Irrigation Improvement Program** (residential and commercial) – There are rebates for upgrades made to existing systems (\$100-\$450), new systems (\$50) and commercial rebates for both new and old systems.
- **Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Efficiency Program** (Water Smart Technology and Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Heads) – These rebates have many categories, from toilets to medical equipment, ranging from \$100 to a maximum of 50% of the project cost.

We hope these programs will encourage all of our customers to take advantage of the great water saving products that are available to help conserve water and cut down on water bills. For a complete listing of all rebates available, please visit: www.savingwater.org/rebates.htm. ♣



Call Before You Dig

Tree roots are one of the most common causes of sewer service piping failures, and can be *very* costly to you! For this reason, it is highly encouraged that customers maintain adequate clear zones around their sewer pipes prior to planting trees and plants.

Before planting, call 811 or 1-800-424-5555 for utility locates, or call the District's Operations Department to get a copy of the record drawing of your sewer system at 425-398-4403. Plant Smart! ♣

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Utility District
Board of
Commissioners:

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President

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Board of
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Meetings
are held at the
District Office
on the
first and third
Monday of each
month at 5:30 p.m.
except Holidays.



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