

SEWAGE FACT SHEET

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Contact with Sewage



Q: What is sewage?

A: Sewage is the water carried out of your home or business through your washing machine, toilet or drains in your sinks, bath tubs and showers.

Q: Where does the sewage go after it leaves my home?

A: Sewage is carried through a complex network of buried pipelines and pump stations to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant near Elk Grove. There it is cleaned up before being pumped into the Sacramento River.

Q: How does sewage get out of the pipes?

A: Sewage can get out of the pipelines in a number of ways. The most common way is a blockage in a small pipeline due to grease or tree roots. Most often it appears around the edge of sewer manhole covers or comes out of a “cleanout” in front of or behind a building.

Q: What should I do if I spot sewage on the ground?

A: First, you should **avoid contact** with the sewage. It may contain contaminants that are harmful to your health. Please keep children and pets away from it as well. To report sewage coming out of sewer manholes and/or pipelines, call the Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD) at (916) 875-6730. We will check to see if the problem is being caused by our system or by the property owner’s system. If the problem is caused by our system, we will correct it and clean up the sewage overflow.

Q: What if I have come into contact with sewage?

A: Sewage can carry disease-causing bacteria and germs; therefore, after coming in contact with sewage you should thoroughly wash all potentially exposed areas with warm water. Clothing that has come in contact with sewage can be washed in the washing machine with normal laundry detergent, and footwear can be washed with warm water and soap.

According to the Sacramento County Health Officer, most of these micro-organisms will die within 24 hours of exposure to air. Exposure to sunlight will also kill them very quickly. Any fruit or vegetables that have come into contact with sewage should not be eaten and should be disposed of in the garbage.

Q: How do I clean up sewage in my home?

A: As stated before, sewage can carry disease-causing bacteria and you should avoid contact. If sewage entered your home, report the problem as described above by calling SASD at (916) 875-6730. We can determine whether the sewage in your house originated within the portion of the system that is part of your home or whether it originated within SASD’s system. If it originated within our system, we will clean it for you. If you wish to proceed with cleanup, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department has information on how best to cleanup. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.emd.saccounty.net/Documents/Info/EC/Water/FloodingandSewageSpillsInformationSheet.pdf>.

Q: Whom can I call for additional information?

A: If you have further questions regarding the health effects of exposure to sewage, please consult your doctor.

Sewer Problems? Call the District first at (916) 875-6730!

For additional information, visit our website at sacsewer.com.