

THE SEWER SYSTEM: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

We all count on each other to keep our community's sewer system safe and effective. Your Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) preserves the public sewer mains, but about half of the sewer system is privately owned lateral lines—the source of many sewage spills. Property owners are responsible for maintaining the entire length of their lateral line from their home or business to where it meets the sewer main under the street. This drawing shows the best practices to secure your home and property, protect human health, and safeguard the environment!

SEWER COVER

Provides access for maintenance

SEWER RELIEF VALVE (SRV)/CLEANOUT

In the event of a mainline backup, your SRV diverts sewage water into your yard before it reaches your home. Check this vital device regularly—call CAWD for a free inspection.

MAIN LINE TO CAWD TREATMENT PLANT



Property owners must maintain the entire length of their lateral, including the connection to the main line, regardless of where their property ends.

LATERAL LINE

LATERAL LINE

Connects your home or business to the main sewer line. Prevent sewage spills and backups by having it inspected regularly for cracks and root intrusion.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE

A valve which clamps shut to prevent backups into your home. Required for all lateral lines, along with an SRV.

GUTTERS

Do not connect to the sewer system—it's illegal!

BATHROOM

Flush only "The Three Ps": pee, poop, and toilet paper—*nothing else!* That means no:

Wipes	Cat litter	Cleaning products
Rags	Hair	Tampons
Facial tissue	Toiletries	Cotton balls
Paper towels	Condoms	Cigarette butts



KITCHEN

Fats, oil, grease: collect in a container for disposal. Call GreenWaste at 920-6707 to recycle cooking oil curbside.

Food waste: compost or put in collection bin. Garbage disposals are incompatible with today's water conservation measures.



SUMP PUMP

Do not connect to the sewer system—it's illegal!



YARD/HOUSE/GARAGE

All Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) must go to the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (384-5313) for disposal or reuse. It is illegal to dump chemicals into the trash, toilet, sink, yard, sewer, or storm drain. HHW includes:

Paint/solvents	Fuel/motor oil/antifreeze	Cleaning products
Poisons/pesticides	Fertilizer/fungicide	Personal care products



Pharmaceuticals: drop off at the Carmel Police Department or Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. For details, visit dontrushtoflush.org.



QUESTIONS?

Call (831) 624-1248, or visit CAWD.org

—After-hours emergency? Call Carmel Police at 624-6403; they will activate a CAWD response—

SEWER BACKING UP? WE'RE HERE FOR YOU—DAY OR NIGHT! If wastewater is entering your home or yard it is an emergency—don't hesitate to call us for an immediate, free inspection. Our friendly, professional crew is on call 24 hours a day, every day. They will determine if the problem is in the main line (our problem) or the lateral line (your responsibility). We can also schedule an inspection of your sewer relief valve, and show you how to check it yourself.





The long way to the landfill
CAWD staff spend 24-32 labor hours every week dismantling our community's three sewage intake pumps to remove entangled wipes, which then must be hauled to the landfill where they belong.

PLEASE—DON'T FLUSH WIPES!

- Wipes cause backups into homes, and damage our community's sewer system—*please dispose of them in the trash only.*
- Despite claims, no wipes of any kind are flushable or biodegradable in the wastewater system. *Please flush only human waste and toilet paper.*



The marketing explosion of throwaway wipes for every conceivable need has caused crisis level problems for municipal sewer systems worldwide, as well as a dramatic increase of plastic pollution in our oceans and waterways. Even supposedly "biodegradable" wipes can take 100

years to degrade in a landfill. To protect your home, the environment, and our community's sewage treatment system, please flush nothing but "The Three Ps": pee, poop, and toilet paper!

Negative impacts of wipes:

- Cause expensive sewage backups into homes
- Damage sewer infrastructures worldwide
 - Not biodegradable or recyclable
- A major source of microplastics in the ocean
 - High carbon footprint



Carmel Area Wastewater District
3945 Rio Road, Carmel, CA 93923
(831) 624-1248
—Visit us online at CAWD.org—

Green up your bathroom

Use moistened toilet paper instead of wipes, or, better yet, install a bidet attachment to eliminate or reduce the need for both wipes and toilet paper!

Simple bidets start at around \$30, easily attach beneath your existing toilet seat with no special fixtures or tools, and use no electricity.

Luxury bidet toilet seats provide heat, spray modes, and air drying. Either way, you'll see a huge savings in toilet paper and wipes while you protect your health, your plumbing, the environment, and our community's wastewater treatment system.



Thank you for helping us protect human health and the environment!

Bidets offer superior, hands-free cleansing that does not harm the environment or our community's sewage system:

- ✓ Cost saving, one time purchase
- ✓ Healthier, cleaner results—no chemical residue
- ✓ Doesn't pollute ocean/harm wildlife
- ✓ Uses far less water than wipes or toilet paper production
- ✓ Greatly reduces risk of backups and plumbing problems
- ✓ Much smaller carbon footprint
- ✓ Trees will thank you—and so will we!



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