

THE SEWER SYSTEM: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

We all count on each other to keep our community's sewer system functioning properly. Your Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) safeguards the public sewer mains, but about half of the sewer system is privately owned lateral lines, which are the cause 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 highlights the best practices to prevent overflows and protect human health and our precious environment.

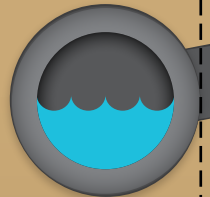
SEWER RELIEF VALVE (SRV) AND CLEANOUT

In the case of a sewer main blockage, this crucial device diverts wastewater into your yard so it doesn't back up into your home. Check your SRV regularly to make sure it's operational and clear of obstructions, especially after storms. Call the number below for a free inspection.

SEWER MANHOLE COVER

Provides CAWD access to sewer system

PIPELINE TO TREATMENT PLANT



PROPERTY LINE

SEWER MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY OF:

LATERAL LINE

Your lateral line connects your home to the sewer main line by gravity flow. Some buildings require pumps to lift wastewater to the public sewer system.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE

A valve which clamps shut to protect your home against sewage backups. The device is an industry best practice and is required per California Plumbing Code for some properties.



YARD/MECHANICAL

It is **illegal** to put the following in the garbage or down any drain or toilet. **Note:** storm drains in the street are separate from the sewer system and flow directly into the ocean!

- Paints/solvents
- Motor oil
- Pesticides
- Cleaning Products
- Antifreeze
- Fertilizers

To dispose of household hazardous waste please call the Monterey Regional Waste Management District for drop-off hours: **(831) 384-5313** or mrwmd.org.

ROOF DRAIN
NEVER connect roof drain to sewer

BATHROOM

Flush **ONLY** toilet paper and human waste!
Do not flush anything else, including:

- "Flushable" wipes
- Hair
- Dental floss
- Cat litter, including "flushable"
- Pharmaceuticals
- Feminine products
- Household hazardous waste
- Toiletry products



KITCHEN

Do not put **egg shells, coffee grounds, fat, or grease** down your garbage disposal. They form a cement-like substance that can clog your line.

- Compost egg shells and coffee grounds or put them in the garbage.
- Collect fat and grease in a container and dispose of it in the trash.



SUMP PUMP
NEVER connect sump pump to sewer system



← PUBLIC AGENCY

PROPERTY OWNER (YOU) →



QUESTIONS?

Call CAWD at
(831) 624-1248!


— after hours: 624-6403 —

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU—DAY OR NIGHT! If sewer water is backing up in 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, and can tell you 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 to ensure it is working properly, and show you how to check it yourself.



PLEASE — DON'T FLUSH WIPES!

- Wipes damage the sewer system—always dispose of them in the trash.
- Despite some package labeling, wipes are not flushable or biodegradable.
- Flush only human waste and toilet paper.








Single-use wipes are causing billions of dollars of damage to municipal sewer systems, prompting lawsuits against manufacturers. Wipes combine with fat and grease to form blockages. Municipalities have had to remove “fatbergs” weighing tons!

At your local CAWD treatment plant, staff members have to dismantle our main influent pump three times a week to remove masses of entangled wipes—a process that takes 6 to 8 hours each time. We all pay for this extra labor, and for the cost of separating wipes from wastewater for transport to the landfill where they belong.

Negative impacts of wipes:

- Cause expensive sewage backups into homes
- Damage sewer infrastructures worldwide
 - Not biodegradable or recyclable
- A major source of microplastics/synthetic fibers that pollute the ocean and harm marine life
 - High carbon footprint



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.

Green up your bathroom

Moisten toilet paper with a spray bottle in lieu of wipes, or, better yet, eliminate or reduce the need for wipes and toilet paper by installing a bidet attachment. 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.

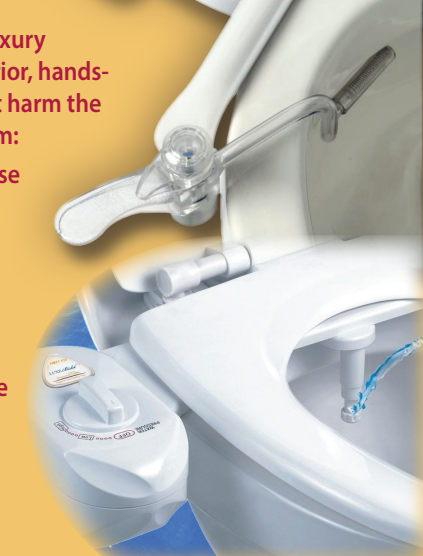



**Carmel Area
Wastewater
District**

3945 Rio Road, Carmel, CA 93923
(831) 624-1248

Visit us online at CAWD.org

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



Whether a basic or luxury model, bidets offer superior, hands-free cleansing that does not harm the environment or sewage system:

- ✓ Cost saving, one time purchase
- ✓ Healthier, cleaner results—no chemical residue
- ✓ Uses far less water than wipes or toilet paper production
- ✓ Smaller carbon footprint
- ✓ Doesn't pollute ocean/harm wildlife
- ✓ Saves trees