

NEWSLETTER

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Kitsap County Public Works | Sewer Utility



Friend or foe? Learn how to make the best use of your garbage disposal

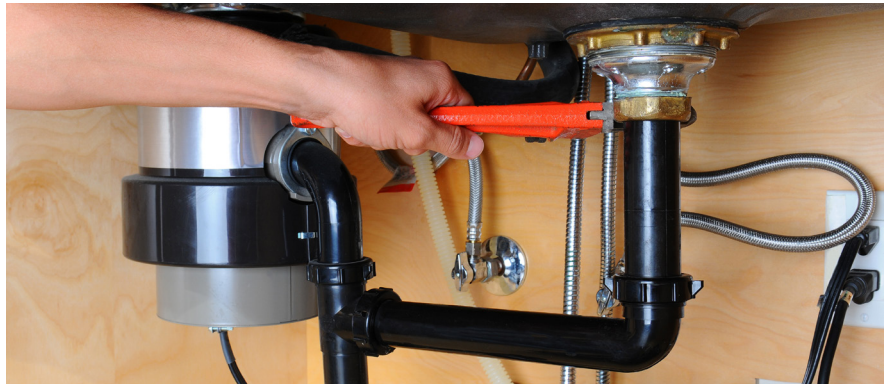


Bidet seats are now more common and a better alternative than wipes



Wipes Clog Pipes! Even flushable wipes can cause clogs. Only flush toilet paper and human waste.

THE DAILY GRIND – GARBAGE DISPOSAL TIPS



Love them or hate them, garbage disposals are a popular fixture in over half of American homes. They make kitchen clean up easier. But without the proper routine, they can cause quite a stink, clog your sink, or even clog sewer pipes. Here are some tips to keep your garbage disposal working for you.

Keep it small. Only small items should go in the disposal, such as crumbs, small pieces of eggshell, and small amounts of coffee grounds. A good rule of thumb is to not put anything in the garbage disposal that you would not let go down the drain. This especially includes anything with grease – it will solidify and clog pipes. Never put non-food items in a garbage disposal or use it instead of the trash can.

Keep it clean. Grinding ice cubes a few times a month is a good way to clean and sharpen the blades in your garbage disposal. Some people put citrus peels in to help with odors, but too much or large pieces of peel can cause clogs or get stuck in the blades. Freeze white vinegar into ice cubes for a better way to tackle cleaning and odors at the same time.

Keep it maintained. Your garbage disposal should work for up to ten years if you treat it with care. One common mistake is not using it at all. Without occasional use, components can seize up. Or inevitably food from dishes will get inside and cause clogs and bad odors. Even if you don't have anything to grind, turn on the water and run your disposal every few days.

Always use water when running your disposal. Cold water is best. Hot water can soften food and cause it to clog the unit. Run your disposal a little longer while running cold water to make sure everything goes down the drain. You can also add a little dish soap to keep it clean.

Follow these tips to extend the life of your garbage disposal and make the most of your daily grind. Garbage disposals are not recommended for use with septic systems.

Find more household tips in Everyday Kitsap, an annual publication from Kitsap County Public Works. Read the 2021 online edition at kcowa.us/ek21.

\$8.8 MILLION

The estimated amount in additional operating costs due to wipes in sewage systems in the state Washington for 2019.

Learn more from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies at NACWA.org.

DO

- Grind small food items like crumbs or small amounts of coffee grounds
- Run cold water during and after use
- Use your disposal regularly

DON'T

- Put non-food items in the disposal
- Grind anything with fats, oil, or grease
- Stick a fork in it!

BIDET SEATS MAKE A SPLASH DURING PANDEMIC



Bidets have been around for hundreds of years. While commonly used in other countries, they became more popular in the U.S. during the coronavirus pandemic. People spending more time at home paired with some of the earlier shortages in toilet paper led many consumers to purchase bidet seats for their toilets.

Stand-alone bidets, which are separate plumbing fixtures from a toilet and sink, used to be the only option. These are not that common in homes here and take up more space in the bathroom. With the advent of bidet attachments and bidet toilet seats, along with the convenience of online shopping, more Americans are trying this option. One manufacturer of bidet seats saw sales increase by ten-fold in 2020.

Bidets do not use a lot of water and can save on toilet paper use. Many users and medical experts say using a bidet is more hygienic than toilet paper alone. They

can also be an alternative to using wet wipes, which should never be flushed, even those labeled “flushable.” No matter how your toilet is equipped, toilet paper is the only product that is safe to flush.

CENTRAL KITSAP TREATMENT PLANT OFFICE UPGRADES

The Central Kitsap Treatment Plant (CKTP) has an upgraded workspace after installation of a modular building. In addition to staff offices, the building provides flexible meeting and training space for various size groups.

This project replaced trailers that were installed in 1997 as temporary space for contractors and construction management. These eventually became offices for Sewer Utility capital project engineering and operations staff, electricians, and construction management. Over time the buildings no longer had adequate work or meeting space and were not code compliant or energy efficient.

The new buildings are code compliant with updated telecommunications and an efficient electrical and HVAC system. A pre-manufactured building was selected for this project with cost in mind. In addition, there is potential to relocate the building within the CKTP campus to accommodate future expansion.



Old staff trailers at CKTP



New modular building at CKTP

CHANGE IN NEWCOMER ASSESSMENT FEES

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners adopted a uniform newcomer’s assessment fee for new sewer connections effective as of Aug. 1, 2021. The new uniform rate is \$6,481 per each residential equivalent unit for all Kitsap County sewer systems in Central Kitsap, Suquamish, Kingston, Manchester, and Navy Yard City. This change does not affect customers already connected to sewer.

Existing sewer customers will get a rate increase in January 2022 based on the current three-year sewer rate schedule. Most residential customers will see a 5.92% increase from 2021 rates.

Customers that qualify for the Assessor’s Senior Exemption Program for property taxes may receive a 25% discount on their sewer account. If you qualify for this exemption through the Assessor’s office, please contact Utility Billing at 360.337.7127 to request the discount. The full rate schedule is available online at www.kitsapgov.com/pw/Documents/sewerratess.pdf.

