

February 2019

It's a Drain, NOT a Dumpster: A Guide to Basic Pipe Maintenance

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Board Meetings:

- February 7
- February 21
- March 7
- March 21

Association Closures:

- February 18

Past Due Bills Due:

- February 20
Before 3:00 pm

Disconnection Day:

- February 21

Current Bills Due:

- February 25
Before 3:00 pm

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One of the most important roles of homeownership is proper upkeep, but did you know that maintaining your sewer lines should be on your list of chores? Pipe maintenance is one of the most overlooked tasks for a home, but the benefits and avoidance of potential costly damage in both clean up and repairs are huge. On average, a homeowner can expect to pay close to \$100 for a basic service call just to inspect and diagnose a blockage. Sewer lines backing up can be caused from anything from tree roots to grease buildup and inappropriate objects in the lines. The high costs to us personally and to our community can be avoided with proper drain maintenance, and by not allowing clog offenders to go down the drain. Clog-inducing items or buildup cause significant damage on sewage and wastewater systems and expose our environment to hazardous waste. With advances in technology toilets have been designed to be more water-efficient so when an item is flushed that has no business being in the pipes there is not enough volume in the flush to force debris through. It is important to remem-

ber there are products available that advertise as 'flushable'. These items do not break down the way that toilet paper does and become lodged in your pipes to haunt you later; whether it be days or years. Keep in mind the smells from a blockage are unpleasant and increased levels of moisture indoors in the event of a sewage backup can lead to mold growth, even on surfaces that are not directly wet.

We as a community have abused the plumbing that we all share. The Association was subjected to heavy expenses as we had to contract a company to come jet one of our sewer mains to attempt to break up the buildup caused from improper items being dumped down the drains. The distance covered was minimal due to the extent of the damage discovered from clog-inducing substances. The duty of proper pipe maintenance and using plumbing appropriately by regulating what goes down the drain is a responsibility we all carry.

Clog-inducing substances are numerous. Placing mesh screens over all your drains to catch hair,

food particles and gunk, washing pets outside, and reducing dependence on the garbage disposal are just a few examples of proper drain maintenance. Disposing of fats, oils, and greases (FOG) down the drains causes horrible damage. FOG becomes rock hard in the pipes and drainfields which shrinks the size of the pipes and causes blockage and unnecessary buildup. It is important to wipe any FOG or food particle items into the trash can before washing items in the sink.

There are some plumbing problems that naturally occur over time, however using these precautionary measures can make a positive impact on your plumbing. If your drains need to be cleaned, professionals recommend the use of a bacteriological drain cleaner. Using a granulated bacterial drain cleaner is 100% biodegradable and noncorrosive in order to avoid any damage to a plumbing system. If you are experiencing issues or have concerns a local plumber can answer any questions you may have and can schedule an inspection for your home.



Damage to our sewer lines



NEVER Flush Down the Drain

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOG) • Disposable 'Flushable' Wipes • Baby Wipes • Feminine Hygiene Products • Coffee Grounds • Egg Shells • Rags or Towels • Paints and Solvents • Gasoline or Combustible Fuels • Toxic Chemicals • Antifreeze | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicines and Pharmaceuticals • Needles and Razor Blades • Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers • Poisons including Rat / Mice Bait • Gloves, condoms, underclothes, elastics, plastic bags, wrappers, bottles, cotton-tips, cotton balls, Kleenex tampons, cigarette filters, toys, cans, sticks, pebbles, sand, cat litter (even the flushable kind), stockings |
|---|--|



**Committed to provide
quality water and
sanitation services for
members of our
community.**

Physical

**5535 Ledesma Dr., Las
Cruces, New Mexico
88007**

Mailing

**P.O. Box 866, Doña Ana,
New Mexico 88032**

Office

575-526-3491

Emergency

575-644-4027

ServLine

575-449-8055



Welcome West Mesa!

We are excited to announce the purchase of the West Mesa water system and would like to formally welcome our new members. The acquisition brings 112 homes to the District Five service area. We are in the beginning stages of bringing this system online and assessing the infrastructure needs of the new connection. We will provide service on an interim basis to allow time for the customers of West Mesa to provide the required membership documents for continued water service. If you have any concerns or questions please contact Customer Service at 575-526-3491.

Projects

Projects are progressing well throughout our service area. The Via Norte Project in Picacho Hills is anticipated to be complete near April. One of the final pieces will be the construction of the replacement tank on Barcelona Ridge that will hold approximately 180,000 gallons of water. The tank will be painted the same neutral color as our other tanks. The wastewater treatment plant in Picacho Hills has seen new activity with the beginning stages of dirt work. Materials for the actual construction will not be delivered for another four to five weeks as the dirt work finalizes.

Phase II of the Southeast Collection wastewater system has begun and includes the construction of a new vacuum sewer collection system with approximately 6,200 LF of 6-inch, 8-inch, and 10-inch vacuum sewer pipe. Construction will occur along El Camino Real, Carlton, and Navajo. These new lines do allow customers in this service area to connect to wastewater services. For those who are interested in decommissioning their septic tank and connecting to the new service please contact our office.

File Construction continues the system overhaul in Radium Springs. The construction is facilitating the installation of over seven miles of new 8- and 6-inch water distribution and fill lines, new fire hydrants, and pressure reducing valves throughout the community. We appreciate your continued patience with both scheduled and emergency outages.

We ask the public to be mindful of the construction workers and our staff. There is heavy equipment involved in these projects with traffic controls, flaggers, and orange barrels directing traffic. Please be cautious, drive slowly, and be respectful to the workers and their safety. All of the projects we complete bring improved infrastructure to our community that include new fire hydrants. Dona Ana MDWCA maintains all of the fire hydrants in our service areas. We would like to remind our membership that all fire hydrants must be visible and accessible. When an emergency occurs, fire crews must have the ability to quickly locate and make usable a fire hydrant in order to take advantage of critical time. It is important that fire hydrants are kept clear of landscaping, debris, or parked vehicles. Trying to paint, disguise, or landscape over a fire hydrant is strictly prohibited. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 575-526-3491 or visit our website at www.dawater.org.

How to Connect with DAMDWCA

As a reminder we would like to direct our membership to the many ways we have to stay connected with the Association. Our enhanced website features information on Customer Service, Operations, Projects, and our Board of Directors. Our policies are the foundation of how we function and can be found under the Customer Tab titled Customer Policies. We also have new notification opportunities through email and texting. If you would like to be enrolled in these types of notifications for scheduled outages, emergencies, or billing please visit our website at www.dawater.org or contact Customer Service at 575-526-3491 to update your information.