



WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

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The Environmental Services Division (ESD) is a part of the City of Phoenix Water Services Department. ESD is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment by ensuring the City maintains compliance with environmental regulations for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater quality.



ESD is comprised of five sections that work together to collect and analyze drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater samples, evaluate sample results, develop and submit regulatory reports, and advise Water Services staff on regulatory issues related to water quality. ESD issues permits to industrial users that discharge to the sanitary sewer to protect the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). ESD also inspects commercial and industrial businesses for compliance with City Code Chapters 28 (Sewers) and 32C (Stormwater Quality Protection) and provides information to businesses and the public on water pollution prevention measures.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – NEW PERMIT

The City of Phoenix discharges stormwater under a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). A new MS4 Permit became effective on July 1, 2021, and the City is making changes to the Stormwater Management Program to comply with new requirements. The following are some of the changes coming to the program:

- **Inspections:** More industrial facility inspections and construction site inspections. Businesses and construction projects should expect more frequent visits from our inspectors.

- **Post-Construction Program:** Develop and implement a program to ensure post-construction features are designed and maintained to properly manage stormwater and minimize pollutants. The program is in development and expect more details in the future.

- **Retrofit:** Evaluate the feasibility of implementing retrofit to reduce stormwater pollution from developed properties.
- **Public Participation:** Annual workshop to elicit input from the public on the Stormwater Management Program. The next workshop is scheduled for January 26, 2022.



STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK 2022

ESD is hosting the third annual Stormwater Awareness Week from January 24 – 30, 2022 to promote stormwater pollution prevention activities.

Stormwater in Phoenix is not treated like the water leaving your kitchen sink or toilet, so it is important that we proactively prevent stormwater pollution. Stormwater Awareness Week is a large-scale effort to reach the community regarding everyday actions that can be taken to prevent stormwater pollution, such as properly disposing of household waste, picking up after your pet, or maintaining your car so it doesn't leak oil. Planned activities include billboards, radio spots, social media posts, and a virtual workshop.

Be on the lookout for more information and remember "only rain in the storm drain!"



PROTECT OUR SANITARY SEWERS

Most sewer blockages are caused by an accumulation of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), wipes, or other debris. Sanitary sewer blockages can cause raw sewage to back up into homes, apartments, or businesses, which can cause property damage and costly clean-up expenses. Blockages can also cause sewage to overflow onto private property or into the street and create a public health hazard.

The only things that should be flushed down the toilet are toilet paper and human waste.

How to avoid FOG blockages:

1. Never pour FOG down sinks or into toilets. When FOG is poured down the drain it builds up and hardens, eventually clogging pipes.
2. Scrape food, sauces, and grease from plates, pots, pans, and utensils into a trash can. Then wipe with a paper towel before washing or placing it into a dishwasher.
3. Let grease cool, pour into a sturdy sealable container, then place in the trash for disposal.
4. Reduce the amount of garbage you put down disposals by using a strainer in sink drains to collect food scraps and empty the strainer into the trash or compost plant-based scraps.



CONTACT US

VISIT US AT WWW.PHOENIX.GOV/ESD

If you have questions, or would like additional information, you can contact ESD at:

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