

Keep drains clear



Will you be baking and roasting for your family's holiday dinner? If so, avoid a holiday emergency this year. Don't pour meat drippings, bacon grease, lard, butter, shortening, margarine, frying oil or any greasy foods down the drain or the garbage disposal. Hot water and soap won't wash them away. Instead, fat, oil and grease will harden in pipes and clog sewers. And no one wants a sewer back-up during the holiday season (or any time of year)!

Fats, oil and grease should be scraped or wiped from pots, pans and dishes with paper towels or newspaper. When you're done, throw those greasy towels and paper in the trash. You can also use a free EBMUD scraper on your greasy pots and pans.

If you have large amounts of fat, oil and grease to dispose of, collect and take it to a residential cooking oil drop-off location. Visit www.ebmud.com/cleanbay to find a location near you or to order a free scraper.

Did you know you can turn your fat, oil and grease into renewable energy by dropping it off at the EBMUD wastewater treatment plant at 2020 Wake Avenue in Oakland? Every day, we convert organic wastes into renewable energy to power our plant.

Prep your yard for the rainy season

The East Bay has many beautiful, natural creeks running through residential neighborhoods. But during winter storms, excess vegetation and debris can wash into creeks, knock down debris dams, block storm drains and cause damage to downstream properties.

Prevent unnecessary flooding and damage to your or your neighbor's property by maintaining the creeks on your property free of debris. This winter, clear branches, trash and leaves in your yard that may wash away and block storm drains.



10 things you should never flush

These items do not break down in the sewer. Instead they get tangled and clumped together. The debris creates massive obstructions that can lead to sewer back-ups.

What can be flushed? Only two things: human waste and toilet paper.

1. flushable wipes (they're not so flushable!)
2. sanitary napkins, tampons and applicators
3. diapers
4. condoms
5. paper towels and rags
6. hair
7. dental floss
8. cigarette butts
9. kitty litter and doggy waste bags
10. unwanted or expired medicines



For fire safety and water quality

Every day you likely walk or drive past the most visible part of our vast water infrastructure: fire hydrants.

More than 30,000 hydrants dot East Bay neighborhoods, mirroring a network of underground pipes thousands of miles long.

Fire fighters use hydrants to access water in emergencies. During the 1940s and 1950s, EBMUD worked with local fire departments to standardize both the types of hydrants and their maintenance. After the Oakland Hills fire storm of 1991, the connectors that link hydrants to fire hoses were standardized, too.

Hydrants are also important tools for EBMUD to maintain water quality in the distribution system that delivers water to your home. Sometimes, after a pipe repair or replacement, you may see EBMUD crews flushing a water line through a hydrant.

EBMUD maintenance crews maintain hydrants and work with local fire departments to keep them functioning, painted and accessible.

As water pipelines age and are replaced, or as new developments are built, new hydrants must also be installed. The state fire code and local fire departments determine how far apart they must be located.

EBMUD hydrants are painted white. Tops and caps sometimes are painted different colors to indicate to firefighters what the water flow and pressure is at that hydrant. Yellow or red paint usually indicates the hydrant is part of a private system.

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EBMUD Mission Statement

To manage the natural resources with which the District is entrusted; to provide reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services at fair and reasonable rates for the people of the East Bay; and to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.