

FAQs – Sewer

Q: *Why is my cost for sewer so high?*

A: The districts that receive sewer service are either connected to a larger municipality for treatment (such as the City of Stockton or the City of Manteca) or have a small treatment plant that only serves their district. The cost for both of these options is generally higher than what would be paid by a City resident.

- For services provided by another agency, the County generally must pay the same charges as a City resident IN ADDITION to County costs for system maintenance and labor and, in some cases, an out-of-area surcharge imposed by the agency (which can be as high as 35-50% of total costs). This can result in charges substantially higher than the rates paid by City residents.
- Small treatment systems are generally not cost effective to maintain for a small district. With a lower number of people paying the costs of running the system, the cost per parcel is significantly higher than for municipalities with a larger customer base.

Q: *What are typical causes for sewer stoppages?*

A: Some common items such as feminine sanitary products, dental floss, condoms, Q-Tips, Handi-Wipes, baby wipes, diapers, paper towels, or facial tissue are all made of materials that don't break down easily and can cause blockages in your sewer pipes. Root intrusions from trees are also a common cause of a sewer stoppage. **Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)** should never be poured down the sink or garbage disposal. FOG sticks to the interior surface of the sewer pipes, hardens over time and eventually may cause sewage to backup and lead to a sewage spill in your home or on our streets.