



**King County**

## **Business Wastewater Survey Frequently Asked Questions**

King County is surveying thousands of companies that may send industrial wastewater to King County's sewer system. "Industrial wastewater" comes from almost any business process except toilets or sinks in bathrooms or break rooms. All businesses are required to respond to the survey.

Every company must properly dispose of wastewater. Some businesses need permits or authorization to send industrial wastewater to the sewer. Your answers to the survey will help determine what your organization needs.

Our waterways are cleaner today than in previous decades because business practices have improved. This survey is one way King County and businesses are working together for clean water.

### **Why did I receive this survey?**

- **My business is not "industrial."**

Industrial wastewater comes from any business system other than toilets or sinks in bathrooms or break rooms. King County is surveying every organization that might send industrial wastewater to King County's sewer system. This survey is going to about 50,000 companies. All of them are required to respond. Even if you only have rest rooms or break rooms on site, your response to the survey is important.

- **My business is not in King County.**

King County treats wastewater from a large part of south Snohomish County and a small part of north Pierce County. See a map here: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/System/ServiceAreaMap.aspx>.

- **I don't pay King County for sewer service.**

Thirty four local sewer agencies send wastewater to King County for treatment. Your local sewer agency bills your company for sewer service and pays King County.

### **Do I have to fill out the survey?**

Yes. All companies must complete the survey, according to King County Code 28.84.060. The survey is legitimate and your organization is required to respond.

### **What happens if I don't fill it out?**

Filling out the survey could save you time and trouble. We may have to inspect businesses that don't fill out the survey. Your answers on the survey will help determine if that would be necessary. That's why even if you only have rest rooms or break rooms on site, your response is important.

### **How long will it take to fill out the survey?**

It depends on your business. Many businesses will only need a few minutes to fill out the survey. Others may need to gather records and documentation to respond accurately. Businesses that send large volumes of industrial wastewater to the sewer will need to provide more information. Businesses that perform "categorical" processes will too. Categorical processes are federally regulated with pretreatment standards. They include things like metal finishing, pharmaceutical manufacturing, organic chemicals, plastics, and many others.

### **How can I ask questions about the survey?**

For questions about the survey, contact: [iusurvey@prrbiz.com](mailto:iusurvey@prrbiz.com)

For questions about the Industrial Waste Program, email: [Info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov)

### **Does my business have to follow environmental regulations? Do I need special permits?**

All companies need to follow regulations for properly disposing of wastewater. This protects wastewater workers, the environment, the wastewater treatment process, and recycled products from sewage treatment plants. But, only some businesses need permits or formal authorization to send industrial waste to the sewer. Your answers to the survey will help determine what your organization needs.

### **Do I have to sign my survey?**

Yes. The survey is designed so that you can review your survey answers first and then sign online. The person who signs confirms they are responsible for the accuracy of the survey information.

### **What is the King County Industrial Waste Program? What is its function?**

King County Industrial Waste has been working with businesses since 1969. We help them comply with water quality regulations. The quality of life in our region needs both a strong economy and a clean environment. Our waterways are cleaner today than in previous decades because business practices have improved.

### **Why is King County doing this survey?**

The US Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology require King County to conduct this survey.

### **What wastewater regulations do businesses need to know about?**

Many regulations govern the wastewater treatment process. King County is required to inform you of the following:

Any industrial wastewater your business may send to the sanitary sewer must meet “discharge limitations” detailed in the King County Code and King County Local Discharge Limits. These can be found at:

[www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/Limits.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/Limits.aspx).

If you send certain hazardous wastes to a King County sanitary sewer you are required to notify King County, US EPA, and the Washington State Department of Ecology. By correctly filling out the required survey, we can help you determine your reporting requirements under federal, state and local regulations. You can learn more about this requirement at: [www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste](http://www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste).