INDUSTRIAL WASTE PROGRAM
Partering with Industries to Prevent Pollution

KING COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING WATER QUALITY
King County’s Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) treats sewage for 1.8 million people from 34 local sewer agencies at five treatment plants. The WTD service area is 424 square miles and includes homes, businesses, industries, and government entities in most urban areas of King County and parts of south Snohomish County, and northeast Pierce County. At our wastewater plants, we provide high-quality treatment so that the effluent can be recycled or released into central Puget Sound.

MANY INDUSTRIES MUST PRETREAT THEIR INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER BEFORE DISCHARGING IT TO THE SEWER SYSTEM.
Water that has been used in an industrial process is different from the water we wash down the sink at home. It may be more acidic, contain chemicals that wastewater treatment process can’t break down, or be full of fats and food waste that clog our sewer pipes.

PROTECT PEOPLE, WATER, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Some pollutants, like heavy metals and petroleum-based oils, are not readily biodegradable and can pass through our treatment plants into local water bodies or adversely affect King County’s wastewater treatment processes. Pretreating wastewater protects workers, local and regional sewer and treatment infrastructure, effluent quality, and biosolids.

IT’S THE LAW
An industrial facility in King County discharging wastewater to the county sewer system may be subject to federal and local restrictions, or discharge limits. Learn more about federal and local industrial waste regulations and pollutant limits: www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/wastewater/industrial-waste/limits-regulations

WHAT IS INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER?
Industrial wastewater is the wastewater produced from industrial processes, excluding toilets or sinks in bathrooms or break rooms. Contaminated groundwater and stormwater removed from construction sites is also considered industrial wastewater.

KING COUNTY INDUSTRIAL WASTE PROGRAM (KCIW) WORKS TO REDUCE AND PREVENT POLLUTANTS FROM ENTERING THE WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEMS BY:
- Implementing federal, state, and local industrial waste regulations and informing industries of any changes to the rules
- Issuing permits and authorizations to industrial facilities to discharge to the local and regional sewer system
- Inspecting facilities and sampling wastewater to assess compliance
- Providing engineering reviews of pretreatment systems to meet permit requirements
- Investigating complaints and taking enforcement actions against industrial users who violate permit and regulatory requirements
- Helping industries follow best management practices to improve their environmental compliance and reduce their costs
- Assessing industrial waste fees to help recover KCIW program costs
- Identifying new industrial users through ongoing surveys and research
- Rewarding and recognizing companies who meet or exceed their permit requirements or who implement innovative projects to prevent pollution
HOW TO GET APPROVAL TO DISCHARGE INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TO THE SEWER:
Before you discharge industrial wastewater to the sewer, you must contact KCIW at 206-477-5300 or info.kciw@kingcounty.gov. KCIW will help you with the discharge approval process.

Types of Discharge Authorizations
KCIW issues different types of discharge authorizations to the sanitary sewer depending on the type of industrial process, the volume of wastewater, pollutants of concern, and the duration of the discharge. Each type of discharge authorization has different requirements and most have issuance fees associated with them. The requirements may include pretreatment, monitoring, reporting, and limits.

Types of discharge authorizations
• Individual Permits
• Major Discharge Authorizations
• Minor Discharge Authorizations
• Letter of Authorizations
• General Letter of Authorization – Construction
• Verbal Authorizations (email)
• No Control Document Required (email)

PLAN AHEAD – TO RECEIVE DISCHARGE APPROVAL, FACILITIES MUST APPLY ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING TIMEFRAMES PRIOR TO DISCHARGE:

• 120 days for federally regulated discharges
• 90 days for King County regulated discharges that are greater than 25,000 gallons
• 30 to 60 days for most other discharges
• 7 days for construction projects eligible for a General Letter of Authorization

*Find more information about discharges and application forms here: kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste.

KCIW works with four types of customers:

Categorical
The federal government has established rules that limit the amount of pollutants that specific groups of industries called “categorical dischargers” can send to the sewer. Examples of categorical dischargers include metal finishers, electronic components, and centralized waste treatment operations. For a more detailed list, visit the discharge limits section of our website.

High-strength wastewater or “surcharge”
Wastewater from some industries contains high-strength organic wastes that are above domestic-strength levels. While the treatment plants can break down and remove this organic or “compatible” waste during the treatment process, it is more expensive to treat high-strength organic wastewater. Some examples of these types of surcharge facilities include dairies, meat and fish processing operations, bakeries, breweries, and soft drink makers.

Construction
During construction projects, workers often have to pump groundwater or stormwater away from the site to create dry conditions for their work areas in a process called “dewatering.” Construction projects may be able to get permission to send contaminated dewatering to the sanitary sewer system.

Other non-categorical
Some types of facilities are not on the federal “categorical” list, but their wastewater must be carefully monitored. Some examples of non-categorical facilities include landfills, transfer stations, groundwater remediation sites, and laundries.
# Sewer Fees and Surcharges

## King County Industrial Waste Fees

Funding for King County’s Industrial Waste Program comes from fees paid by our industrial customers. Industrial facilities pay industrial waste fees and a monthly sewer bill. The table below describes the different types of fees and lists which agency sends you the bill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Bill From/Paid To</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issuance fees</td>
<td>Issuance fees recover the cost of reviewing an application and issuing a permit or discharge authorization. They also include conducting an inspection of a new facility or a permit renewal.</td>
<td>King County WTD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance monitoring and administration fees</td>
<td>Annual compliance monitoring and administration fees pay for inspections, sampling, laboratory costs, permit management, and administrative tasks. KCIW uses criteria to place similar facilities into compliance monitoring and administration fee tiers.</td>
<td>Local sewer agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surcharge treatment fees</td>
<td>Surcharge treatment fees recover the cost of treating “high-strength organic waste” at our treatment plants. The surcharge is based on an industrial facility’s discharge volume to the sewer and the organic waste strength (biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids concentrations).</td>
<td>Local sewer agency</td>
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<td>Post-violation inspection, monitoring, and administrative fees</td>
<td>Facilities that violate the regulations are required to reimburse King County for the KCIW staff costs associated with the violation. Post-violation fees include the costs of preparing enforcement documents, performing inspections, conducting sampling and performing laboratory analyses associated with the violation.</td>
<td>King County WTD</td>
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<td>Fines</td>
<td>Fines may be imposed on industrial facilities that have discharge, permit, reporting, or King County Code violations. Dischargers are also liable for any damages and additional costs caused by their discharges.</td>
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## Other King County Sewer Service Fees

The King County sewer rate provides the revenue to operate our regional treatment facilities, and to inspect and maintain crucial equipment. The capacity charge revenue goes toward new facilities and system upgrades designed to accommodate our growing population.

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<td>Sewer rates</td>
<td>Sewer rates pay for operating and maintaining local collection systems and regional wastewater treatment facilities. Residents, businesses, and industries pay sewer rates, which are volume-based.</td>
<td>Local sewer agency</td>
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<td>Capacity charge</td>
<td>The capacity charge is a fee for new connections to the sanitary sewer system, which is in addition to monthly sewer bills. It pays for capital projects such as new conveyance and treatment facilities and system upgrades designed to accommodate our growing population.</td>
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For more information on Industrial Waste Fees, visit: [www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/wastewater/industrial-waste/fees](http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/wastewater/industrial-waste/fees)

For more information on King County Sewer Fees, visit: [www.kingcounty.gov/RatePayerReport](http://www.kingcounty.gov/RatePayerReport)
**AVOID ADDITIONAL COSTS AND PENALTIES**

KCIW issues penalties to facilities that violate the King County Code and permit requirements. Fines are up to $10,000 a day. KCIW is required to report the names of companies who are in “significant non-compliance” and/or who receive penalties in a local newspaper.

KCIW works with industrial users to help them meet permit requirements and prevent pollution. Talk to your investigator or contact KCIW to discuss options and learn about best management practices: 206-477-5300 or info.kciw@kingcounty.gov.

**RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Many companies do a good job following industrial wastewater pretreatment rules, and KCIW’s Rewards and Recognition Program recognizes facilities that meet or exceed their wastewater discharge permit requirements.

**REPORT SPILLS (OR POTENTIAL SPILLS) TO THE SEWER SYSTEM**

**WHO TO CALL IF A SPILL HAS OCCURRED**

1. Call 911 for emergencies.
2. Contact KCIW even if you have called 911.
   - Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., call: 206-477-5300
   - After Hours - see table:

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<td>South Treatment Plant</td>
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**HELP RECOVER RESOURCES FROM WASTEWATER**

Our treatment plants do more than just clean the water. They also produce three recycled products: biogas, Loop® biosolids, and recycled water. Our customers use these recycled products for power, to build healthy soil on farms and forests, and to irrigate crops, playing fields, and golf courses. Keeping pollutants out of the sewer means cleaner recycled products.

**HOW TO AVOID PENALTIES**

Late submissions are a frequent and preventable reason for violations and fines. Plan ahead. File your applications and reports on time.

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

- Your permit shows your specific deadlines.
- You can contact King County and ask for an extension to avoid being late.
- You can send your reports electronically to KCIW by emailing info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov.

**REPORT SPILLS TO THE SEWER**

**AVISE SOBRE DERRAMES EN EL ALCANTARILLADO**

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Download a spill response poster for your facility from our home page: www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste or ask your investigator for one.