



## INDUSTRIAL WASTE PROGRAM

Partnering 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

#### BILL FROM/ PAID TO

Issuance fees	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.	King County WTD
Compliance monitoring and administration fees	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.	Local sewer agency
Surcharge treatment fees	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).	Local sewer agency
Post-violation inspection, monitoring, and administrative fees	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.	King County WTD
Fines	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.	King County WTD

### 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.

#### BILL FROM/ PAID TO

Sewer rates	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.	Local sewer agency
Capacity charge	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.	King County WTD

**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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov)

## 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:

WHERE THE SPILL HAPPENED	WHO TO CALL	NUMBER
Seattle and north King County	West Point Treatment Plant	206-263-3801
South King County, most of east King County, north Pierce County, Vashon Island	South Treatment Plant	206-263-2404
South Snohomish County and northeast King County	Brightwater Treatment Plant	206-263-9500

3. Next, contact your local sewer agency. A list of local sewer agencies is available at: [www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/wtd/about/sewer-agencies.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/wtd/about/sewer-agencies.aspx).

## 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.

## REPORT SPILLS TO THE SEWER

AVISE SOBRE DERRAMES EN EL ALCANTARILLADO  
BÁO CÁO SỰ CÓ TRÀN ĐÓ VÀO CỐNG RÃNH  
СООБЩАЙТЕ О СБРОСАХ В КАНАЛИЗАЦИЮ  
하수도로 폐수 유출 시 신고하십시오  
通報傾倒物流入下水道



Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Lunes a viernes • Thứ Hai - Thứ Sáu • 월요일 ~ 금요일  
с понедельника по пятницу • 星期一-星期五

King County Industrial Waste Program  
206-477-5300

Nights and weekends – call your sewage treatment plant.

Noches y fines de semana: llame a la planta de tratamiento de aguas residuales  
Ban đêm và cuối tuần - gọi nhà máy xử lý nước thải  
야간/주말 - 폐수처리장으로 전화 주십시오  
Ночью и в выходные: свяжитесь с очистной станцией  
晚間和週末 - 撥致電廠的污水處理廠

Brightwater Treatment Plant 206-263-9500  
 West Point Treatment Plant 206-263-3801  
 South Plant / Vashon / Carnation Treatment Plant 206-263-1760

Emergencias • Khẩn cấp • 비상연락  
В случае чрезвычайной ситуации • 緊急情況

Emergency: 911  
TTY Relay: 711

Other emergency contacts • Otros contactos de emergencia  
Các liên lạc khẩn cấp khác • 기타 비상 연락처  
Другие контакты для чрезвычайных ситуаций • 其他緊急連絡人

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

Alternative Formats Available: 206-477-5371 or TTY Relay: 711



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