



Summerland Sanitary District News

May 2015

It's a Toilet, Not a Trash Can

Dear Summerland District Customers;

You would not believe what comes into the Summerland Wastewater Treatment Plant. Things like baby wipes, diapers, feminine hygiene products, condoms, syringes, pill bottles and medications, children's toys and cigarette butts, not to mention all the fats, oils and grease. Some people seem to think that the toilet is a trash can. First off, nothing but human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down the drain. All cooking grease should be collected and disposed of in an actual trash can. Why anyone would flush medications down the toilet is beyond belief. The damage it does to the environment is devastating. Our potable water already has traces of pharmaceuticals in it, and by flushing medications down the toilet you are just adding to the problem we already have. There are chemicals that cannot be completely removed by our treatment process and end up polluting the ocean. Protect your family, community and the environment by taking your medications to a medical office or a local drop-off site in Santa Barbara where they can be disposed of safely. You can find one close to you by searching on the web for www.santabarbaraca.gov/recycle/medical (see more info on page 2).



While on the subject of toilets, do you have one that is leaking? Now that we are in an extreme drought and our Golden State is turning into a brown state, we need to conserve every drop of water possible. A leaking toilet can waste more than 100 gallons of water a day, and since leaky toilets are usually silent you may not know that it is leaking at all. A good, safe way to find out if your toilet is working properly is by adding a couple of drops of food coloring to the upper tank and wait 15 minutes. If the coloring turns up in your bowl, it is leaking. You will need to replace the flapper on your toilet or you can buy a new "WaterSense" model toilet and have it installed by a licensed plumber. These small changes can save you up to 13,000 gallons of water per year. So remember the three P's: PEE, POOP and PAPER only; no medications; grease is gross; and the only butt that should be close to your toilet is your own. I hope you all have a great time enjoying our clean beaches this summer and feel free to contact us at any-time if you have any questions or concerns regarding wastewater treatment.

Sincerely;
Michael J. Sullivan
General Manager



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Visit our website:

www.summerlandsd.org

Email:

Info@summerlandsd.org

Ph. 805.969.4344

Fax 805.969.5794





In Santa Barbara County, "[Operation Medicine Cabinet](#)" provides safe disposal of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter household medications. You can place medicines in a baggie and recycle the containers, or keep medications in their original containers but remove or scratch out all personal information.

Medication Drop-off Locations

Santa Barbara Sherriff's Station 4435 Calle Real, Santa Barbara 805-681-4100

There are three CVS Pharmacies that accept unwanted medications:

- CVS 2973 State Street, Santa Barbara 805-682-3751
- CVS 1835 Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara 805-962-7506
- CVS 1109 State Street, Santa Barbara 805-564-0079

Under the new trash contract, Santa Barbara residents are entitled to receive free mail-in medical sharps containers. Contact Marborg at 805-963-1852

Or contact **Community Hazardous Waste Collection**

University of California and Santa Barbara (UCSB) 805-882-3602

Hours: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and on Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm



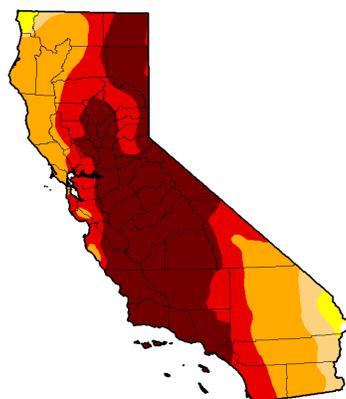
**P.O. Box 417
Summerland, CA 93067**



About Summerland Sanitary District:

The Summerland Sanitary District is one of many independent special districts which are voted into existence by the citizens they serve and are sanctioned under California law to perform specific local government functions within certain boundaries. The District was formed in 1957 pursuant to the Sanitary District Act of 1923. It derives its authority in the California Health & Safety Code (Sections 6400-6830) and operates under State Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region NPDES Permit # CA 4805400.

U.S. Drought Monitor California—April 14, 2015



Intensity:

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

Author(s):

Matthew Rosencrans, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC