

In 2012, a Woodstock resident admitted to disposing of gasoline into a sewer, forcing the evacuation of 120 residents. Approximately 9.77 gallons was found to have been dumped in the sewer. A neighbor first noticed the smell of gas in his home and after speaking with his neighbor, he learned that the man had dumped gasoline from a vehicle he and friends had been working on. Authorities used absorbent material to soak up the gasoline, then flushed the sewer system with 3,000 gallons of water.



Other Ways to Dispose of Gasoline:

Make sure you know what kind of gasoline you have. Many times a container has been there so long, people forget what type of gasoline was in there, or if it was a mixture of oil and gas. Even if you aren't certain what type of fuel you have, you need to dispose of it properly.

COMPANIES THAT DISPOSE OF GAS & OIL:

- Waste Management 623-377-9390
- Arizona Waste Recovery 602-402-9009
- Hazardous Waste Experts 888-681-8923

Do not dispose of gasoline down the drain, into surface water, onto the ground, or in the trash.

WASTE OIL:

If you recycle just two gallons of used oil, it can generate enough electricity to run the average household for almost 24 hours. Recycling keeps used motor oil from lakes, rivers, streams & sewer systems. It also keeps oil out of our ground water that can affect our drinking water.



Recycling Agencies:

- Checker Auto Parts, 1769 McCulloch Blvd N
855-6094
- AutoZone, 241 Lake Havasu Ave. S
855-6094

ANTIFREEZE:

Never discharge used antifreeze into streams or other surface waters, sewer systems, septic systems, or onto the ground. Antifreeze spills should be diluted with large amounts of water. Used antifreeze should be stored in clear containers that are clearly labeled with the words "used antifreeze."



Some auto repair shops that regularly deal with antifreeze will accept used antifreeze from the public.

- Any Radiator, 1546 Countryshire Ave
453-7001 (no fee and no restrictions)
- Mearacle Recycling, 2483 Constellation Drive
486-8007 (businesses only)

The Dangers of Dumping Gasoline and other Chemicals into our Sewer System

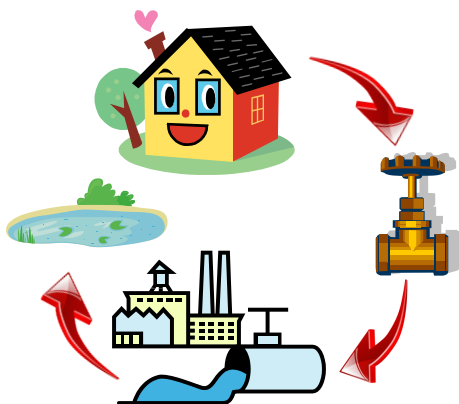


LAKE HAVASU CITY
WASTEWATER DIVISION
928.855.3999

STOP! Think before pouring anything down the drain!

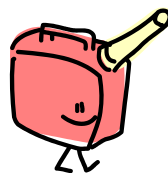
Everything you pour down the drain ends up at your local wastewater treatment plant. So, before you flush, pour, or dump anything into a toilet, sink, or drain, think about what it might do to your wastewater treatment plant and your environment.

Your wastewater treatment plant is designed to treat human wastes and dirty water from household activities, such as bathing, showering, laundry, and dish-washing. Once treated, the clean water is safely reused or disposed of. When other items, such as gasoline and chemicals are sent to the treatment plant, they can harm the treatment process and increase the overall cost of wastewater treatment. Some chemicals may pass through the treatment plant and be released to Lake Havasu and the Colorado River, potentially harming human health and aquatic life.



Gasoline is extremely flammable and is one of the most dangerous substances found in dwellings. Gasoline should never be poured down the drain, on the ground, or thrown in the trash. Improper storage and disposal can be a health, environmental, and safety hazard.

If gasoline is dumped in the sewer system, it can result in a fire, explosion, or contamination.



In 1981, the sewer exploded in Louisville. A company was charged with an illegal discharge of the solvent hexane, paying a hefty fine in addition to millions in damages. It took nearly two years for the city to repair the sewer lines and several more months to finish street repairs.

Cars were sent flying through the air, parts of buildings collapsed, streets buckled inward, manhole covers popped off with deadly velocity, and many people's bathrooms exploded into fountains of sewage. Raw sewage began to fill some streets, three feet high.



In 1992, gasoline poured into a sewer system is believed to have caused an underground explosion outside Baltimore. Area residents reported smelling gasoline in their homes for several days before two explosions. Two manhole covers were blown off; one was torn in half. Fire officials believe gasoline was being dumped illegally into the sewer for about a week. At least 40 people were evacuated as the sewer lines were flushed with 10,000 gallons of water over six hours.



In 2001, a man in Indiana pumped waste liquid containing gasoline into a city sewer from his service station. This illegal disposal created a fire and explosion hazard in the sewer system, requiring an immediate flushing of the city treatment plant.

In 2011, firefighters in Ontario extinguished a blaze in the basement of a home. An explosion then occurred in the main sewer line on the street. A manhole cover flew into the air and the odor of gasoline came from the sewer manhole. Nearby residents had to be evacuated from their homes. During the evacuation, a resident admitted that she had dumped gasoline down the drain of her laundry tub about 10 to 15 minutes before the firemen arrived. Vapors from the gasoline likely traveled up the basement drain into the air of a nearby home, igniting a spark generated by the electrical switch on a washing machine, causing the fire.