

## **SCRSD: Oils, grease causing sewer lines to clog more frequently west of Scottsburg**

Written by Marty Randall  
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An unusual word of caution was issued recently by the Scott County Regional Sewer District (RSD) to its customers.

Don't pour grease, oils or liquid fats of any sort down the drain. Why?

"It eventually forms the worse possible clog you can ever imagine in the sewer lines," advised RSD engineer Bill Saegesser.

The odd topic came up at the RSD's board of directors meeting on October 8. One area of the RSD's territory seems to be more prone to such a problem than nearly any other, it was learned. That area west of Scottsburg includes sewer lines serving Westwood Condominiums, Waters Edge Subdivision, Waters Edge Condominiums, Willow Shore Condominiums, Willow Shore Apartments, Westwood Golf Course clubhouse, Adams Funeral Home and the Fresenius Medical Care facility.

When such a clog does form, it puts an inordinate amount of pressure on the whole system, Saegesser related. RSD workers attack the mess with a chemical that breaks it up into smaller pieces so that it can be handled by the lines. Purchases of the chemical are expensive and only add to the cost of maintaining the RSD system which serves that area, all located north of State Road 56 West. Persons wishing to discard cooking fats and oils of all sorts are encouraged to put them in trash bags for pickup instead of sending them down a drain and creating problems that may result in expensive repairs to lift pump stations and/or distribution lines.

All of the RSD lines in that neighborhood feed into the Scottsburg city sewer line that travels under Interstate 65 and on to the city treatment facility on its northeast side.

Scottsburg officials have in the past reported problems with people flushing wipes down their toilets. There are two types of wipes, those which can be flushed and those which cannot because they aren't biodegradable. Wipe products indicate if they are biodegradable on their packaging.

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Non-flushable wipes caused a huge problem at the city plant a year or so ago and still continue to turn up weekly at the utility. Workers have to remove the clogs from the system by hand.

In some cases, RSD workers have also had to resort to removing layers of built-up grease by hand as well.

“Most RSD customers understand they are responsible for what enters the lines and wouldn’t think of dumping grease or oils into the system. The healthier we can keep the system, the less maintenance and replacement expenses the District incurs,” explained Saegesser.

Such costs can be reflected in future rate increases, he said.