

Living green indoors

Submitted by CRD Environmental Services

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How can we live green indoors?

Our day-to-day actions directly impact the environment we live in. Our behaviors and routines at home have a direct effect on our water supply, wastewater quality and sanitary sewer system. With simple actions we can build a vibrant, functional, and sustainable region.

We can save water in the bathroom to protect our clean water supply source. Implementing high efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucets we can reduce the amount of water we utilize while continuing to have the comforting experiences we are used to. Checking for leaks is also a great way to prevent clean water from being wasted. To ensure there are no leaks, we can test our toilet tank with food coloring or a dye tablet, keep track of our water bill, and fix intermittent drips in faucets right away.

Our regional wastewater treatment facilities provide effective secondary and tertiary treatment, which removes harmful bacteria and organic matter. If the wastewater treatment process is impacted by unflushable items or blockages, wastewater contaminants such as chemicals or insoluble materials may not be treated - making their way into the environment. Therefore, it is important to do our part by returning unused or expired medication to the pharmacy or disposal location, preventing fat, oil, and grease from entering the sewer system, and knowing what products are considered unflushable.

Knowing what NOT to flush helps protect our local waterbodies and aquatic life. Unflushable materials can cause sanitary sewer blockages, as well as costly repairs to homeowners. Personal wipes, diapers, dental floss, and feminine hygiene products are common products wrongfully discarded. An easy way to decide what can go in the toilet is remembering the 3p's- Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper. Everything else should be recycled or put in the garbage.

As residents of the capital region, we all have a role in protecting our water supply and wastewater system. By implementing small changes in our daily habits, we can make a big difference!

To learn more ways to protect our water supply, wastewater, and sewer system, visit www.crd.bc.ca/livegreen