

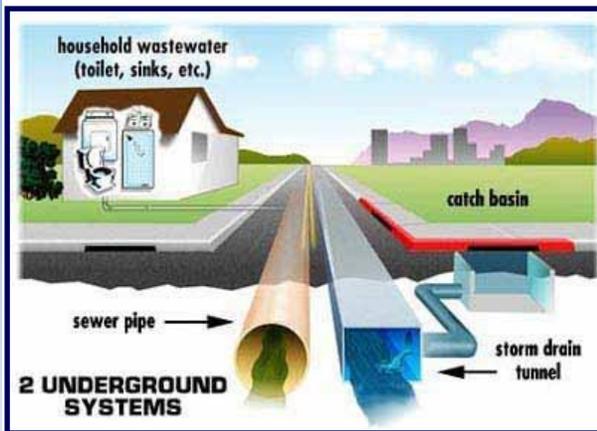


# CITY OF SANTEE

## Responding to Sewage Spills

Many people mistakenly believe that storm drains are connected to Padre Dam's sanitary sewer system and that any wastewater dumped or spilled into an alley, street, or storm drain is treated at Padre Dam's sewage treatment plant. However, most cities in California actually have two separate systems — one for sewage (from sinks, tubs, toilets,) and one for storm water. Any material spilled, dumped, or washed into the street or storm drain ends up in the San Diego River, without treatment.

Raw sewage is hazardous to both human health and the environment. Sewage contains high levels of bacteria and other pollutants such as solids and nutrients.



### **Spill Response:**

If a spill occurs, the source of the sewage spill must be stopped immediately, and the spill must be contained as best as possible. The affected area must be isolated to prohibit public contact. Sewage and all residue must be removed and the area properly disinfected by a licensed and qualified contractor familiar with sewer spill clean up.

Any sewage discharge that reaches the storm drain or storm water conveyance system is a violation of federal, state and local laws. These laws apply to individuals, businesses and public agencies, and includes blocked / backed up sewer lines.

### **Spill Notification:**

All spills must be reported immediately to both Padre Dam Municipal Water district 619-448-3111 **and** the City of Santee 619-258-4100, x167, or after hours pager 619-926-1298.

### **Prevention:**

Routinely maintain your sewer lines. The property owner is responsible to ensure that sewer lines located on private property are inspected and maintained on a regular basis. In addition, education is an important component to preventing spills. Remind your family and employees about the proper disposal of cooking grease, and the importance of not flushing anything down the toilet other than human waste and toilet paper.

*For Further information on water quality and preventing pollution, visit [www.santeeh2o.org](http://www.santeeh2o.org)*

**TO REPORT STORM WATER POLLUTION CALL 888-846-0800.**