

Annual Recalculation of Sewer Bills

Did you know Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) recalculates your sewer bill each year? Your sewer bill is based on an average winter usage known as the “winter quarter average” (WQA). The WQA is the average amount of water used during the months of December, January and February in the fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). We use these months because this is the time when outdoor water use is typically at its lowest. Your new sewer rate goes into effect July 1.



Be sure and review your sewer bill closely! If December, January, and February are not the three lowest consecutive months of water usage in the fiscal year, then you can apply for an appeal. Every July, we send an insert in the sewer bill to remind our customers that there is a sixty-day period to apply. To submit an appeal, you can use our online form on our website at www.pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation or contact Customer Service at the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department at (520) 724-6609.

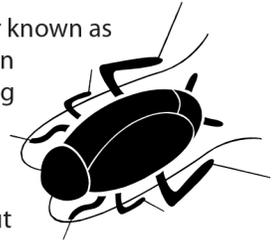
Join RWRD and our partners: EDGE Group, Greycle, Pima Association of Governments and the Town of Sahuarita for the Annual Grease Collection and Recycling Event on Saturday, January 9, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For more information about the collection event, please contact us at (520) 724-6500 or visit our website at www.pima.gov/grease.

Roach-Proof Your Home

There are approximately 20 species of cockroaches in Arizona. Most roaches live outdoors; however, some species have adapted quite well to living indoors and alongside humans. Some species are known to transmit disease-causing organisms and are also known to cause respiratory problems to individuals sensitive to the allergens they produce.

As warmer weather nears, you will begin to see an increase in roach activity. The American Cockroach, better known as the infamous “sewer roach,” is one of the most encountered species in our region. They are 1-1/2 to 2 inches in length, reddish-brown and live outdoors or in sewer systems. They will, however, seek indoor locations during extreme heat and rain events (monsoon season). They thrive in homes, commercial buildings or other structures that offer sufficient shelter and an abundant food source. They live mainly in dark, moist sites in kitchens, bathrooms, sewers and even in crawl spaces under buildings. The American Cockroach is the only variety in the area that will inhabit sewers. Certain measures can be taken to keep these unwanted guests out of your home:



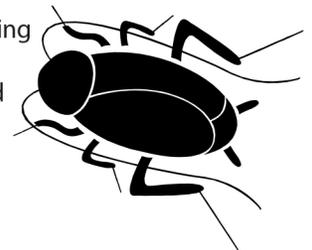
1. Proper sanitation, indoors and outdoors, effectively limits food sources. Don't leave unwashed dishes or uncovered food out overnight. Areas beneath and behind cabinets, furniture, sinks, stoves and refrigerators should be cleaned often, as well as areas where particles of food may accumulate. Kitchen waste and excess trash should be kept in sealed containers and should be disposed of frequently. Dry pet food should be stored in tight containers. If pets are fed indoors, leftover food should not be left out overnight. Garbage cans should be cleaned regularly, inside and out.

2. Eliminate all possible hiding areas such as paper, lumber, firewood and yard trash.

3. Seal any cracks of 1/8 inch or larger in the foundation and exterior walls. Check seals around air conditioning units, windows, doors, pipes or other openings into the home. Repair cracks and holes in floors, walls and ceilings. Seal openings around plumbing fixtures, furnace flues, electrical outlets, windowsills and walls, and along baseboards and ceiling moldings. Thresholds on doors should be as tight as possible.

4. Most species are attracted to water sources, so leaky water faucets and pipes should be repaired.

5. Use exterior yellow light bulbs that don't attract insects, especially in the summer.



6. Don't pour grease down the drain. In addition to clogging pipes, sewer roaches love grease!

To report roach problems, call our automated roach line at (520) 724-3401 and leave your name, address and phone number. For more in-depth information regarding roach prevention and treatment, visit www.pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation/roaches.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Passes the 2016 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

On April 28, 2016, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed the 2016 Water Resources Development Act. The bill directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a study examining the affordability challenges faced by low-income populations in paying for drinking water and wastewater services. It also injects much needed investment into the nation's clean water infrastructure and establish strong policy tools within the Clean Water Act (CWA) to aid municipal clean water utilities in meeting their environmental and public health goals. Among other things, the bill would:

- Establish, for the first time, a Clean Water Trust Fund;
- Require a study on the potential role of low-income assistance programs to support full-cost pricing for water and sewer rates;
- Establish a municipal ombudsman within the EPA to advocate on behalf of municipalities;
- Incentivize Integrated Planning and allow greater use of compliance schedules to achieve water quality standards;
- Promote greater use of Green Infrastructure and other innovative technologies to manage wet weather; and
- Authorize \$1.8 Billion for the CWA's sewer overflow control grant program.

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies NACWA is working to encourage key Senators to support moving the bill to the Senate floor for a vote and hopeful passage. If you support the bill, we encourage you to contact your Senator directly to voice your support. Funding can be used to support programs such as the Sewer Outreach Subsidy Program (SOS), which offers discounts to low-income residential sewer users throughout Pima County. For more information about the 2016 WRDA Bill, visit www.nacwa.org.



RWRD is now on Facebook!

You can now visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wastewaterreclamation. Check us out daily for information on construction projects, traffic alerts, Department updates, educational videos and fun facts!



PIMA COUNTY

WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department Contact Information

General Information (during regular business hours).....	520-724-6500
Roach Control Hotline (Automated line, please provide requested information and staff will return the call).....	520-724-3401
Billing Section	520-724-6609
Sewer Emergencies	520-724-6500
To Report Odors.....	520-724-6500
Sewer Outreach Subsidy (Low-income bill assistance).....	520-724-3794
Sewer Connection Information.....	520-724-6602
To Report Vandalism	911

You can also access this information and more from our website, www.pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Ally Miller, District 1
- Ramón Valadez, District 2
- Sharon Bronson, *Chair*, District 3
- Raymond J. Carroll, District 4
- Richard Elías, District 5

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Chuck Huckelberry