

July 20th, 2010

Dear Cattail Condominium Association Inc. Homeowners,

Your wastewater plant is to soon be operated under contract with Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an independent state agency. The State Groundwater Discharge Permit from Maryland Department of Environment regulates and enforces our performance and compliance.

The Condominium Board of Directors have agreed with MES to implement a good education system within the community to make homeowners aware that many household products and waste adversely affect the sewage treatment system which often result in increased operating expense.

The assistance of residents controlling what they put into drains will assist the Condominium Association and MES in controlling the cost of wastewater treatment. The following items should not be put into the wastewater stream. They should be properly disposed of with regular trash and recycle programs:

NO ANIMAL FATS, SUCH AS BACON GREASE, LARD, OR ANY OTHER OILS SHOULD GO INTO THE SYSTEM. Any food which can be scraped from plates or dishes after a meal or disposed of during preparation should be disposed of as solid waste in the trash can as solid waste and not ground up in the garbage disposal to become an unnecessary part of liquid waste going to the community wastewater plant. (Normal cleaning of dishes, kitchen ware and pots and pans is acceptable)

NO DRAIN CLEANERS SHOULD BE USED. (Vinegar and baking soda is a good substitute. As a last resort, chemical drain cleaners can be used, but use sparingly because they are toxic to the bacteria in the system.)

NO LIQUID FABRIC SOFTENERS SHOULD BE USED. (These products typically contain quaternary ammonia which is toxic to the bacteria. A feasible alternative is dryer sheets.)

NO HARSH CHEMICALS OR TOXINS SHOULD BE PUT INTO THE SYSTEM. (i.e. Floor stripping waste/household paints/solvents/thinners/caustic cleaners/pesticides/herbicides etc

THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS SHOULD NOT BE PUT INTO THE SYSTEM: ANIMAL BONES, CIGARETTE BUTTS, MELON RINDS, EGG SHELLS, ONION SKIN, BANANA SKINS, COFFEE GROUNDS, FEMININE PRODUCTS, BABY WIPES & OLD MEDICATIONS

DISINFECTANTS OR BLEACHES Use in accordance with manufacturers recommendations and sparingly. No pine oil cleaners or toilet bowl tablets should be used.

DETERGENTS Should be low-suds, biodegradable and low phosphate.

Thank you for helping us make your sewer and wastewater system work as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The Water and Wastewater Team
Maryland Environmental Service