

Truth: Sewers Spill Dirty Little Secrets

San Antonio Water System has been telling customers for years that what they put down the drain can cause unsightly backups. But a new campaign focuses on exposing the truth: Pipes Don't Lie.

A new take on educating customers (current and future ones), the Pipes Don't Lie campaign includes interactive resources for kids, too. It zeroes in on the causes of sewer backups and exposes the culprits — personal and cleaning wipes and greasy, sticky foods.

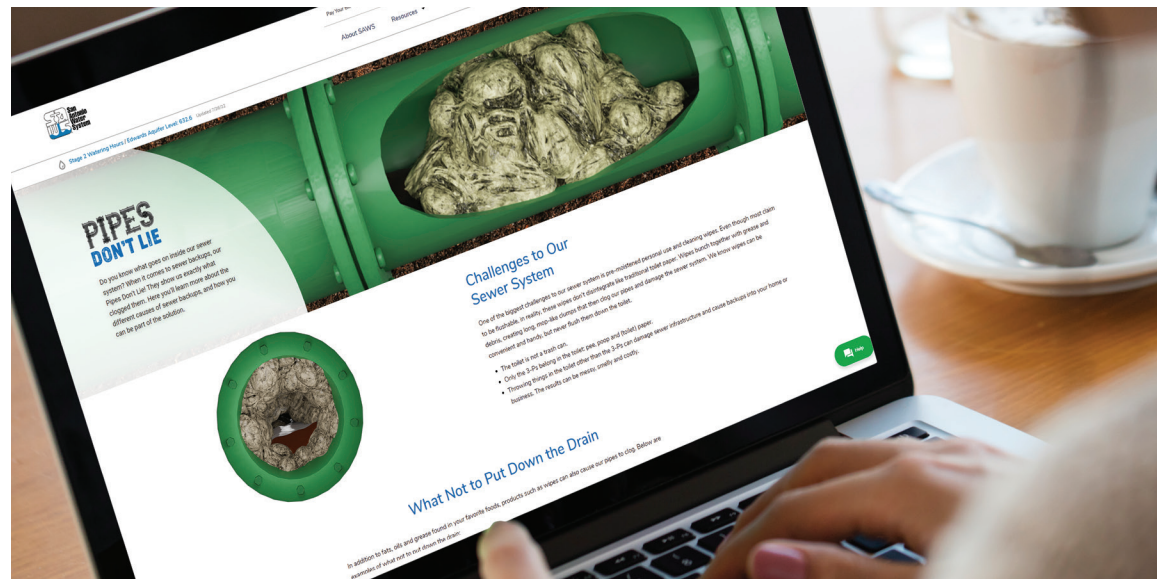
These clump together with other debris, creating long, mop-like masses that block the flow of wastewater in pipes. And that leads to

messy, smelly backups in neighborhoods and sometimes even into homes and businesses.

“We’re always looking for novel ways to remind customers how they can help prevent these spills and keep our sewer system safe,” said Gavino Ramos, SAWS vice president of communications. “Fixing sewer spills is costly and disruptive — and this campaign is a way to emphasize that most backups are preventable.”

Sink drains are not trash cans. Neither are toilets. Use your brown city trash bin to dispose of all greasy food bits and so-called “flushable” wipes.

To learn more, visit saws.org/pipes.



Avoid a Citation — Follow Stage 2 Watering Rules

Despite extreme heat and drought, San Antonio’s water supply remains in pretty good shape. That’s because our city has invested in diverse water sources beyond the Edwards Aquifer.

SAWS manages 15 water supply projects originating from nine different sources.

“SAWS has plenty of water to meet customer demand coming from water projects such as the Vista Ridge Pipeline, our desalination plant and others,” said Robert R. Puente, SAWS president/CEO.

While SAWS has the water resources to avoid more severe watering cutbacks seen elsewhere, customers who water more often

than allowed contribute to main breaks and other infrastructure challenges. SAWS has issued about 4,000 warnings and 1,000 citations to those breaking Stage 2 rules.

In Stage 2, landscape watering with a sprinkler, irrigation system or soaker hose is allowed only from **7-11 a.m. and 7-11 p.m., one day a week, based on the last number of your street address.** If you witness excessive watering or water waste, you can report it at saws.org/waterwaste.

Remember, you can still hand-water with a hose-end nozzle any time you want.

Visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering advice and landscaping tips to reduce outdoor water use.



Event Calendar

Labor Day Artisan Show

Sept. 2-5
River Walk (near Chamber of Commerce)
602 E. Commerce St.
thesanantonioriverwalk.com

Cinema on Will's Plaza: Christopher Robin

Sept. 9
Tobin Center
100 Auditorium Circle
tobincenter.org

Fall Gardening Tasks

Sept. 14
San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Beginner Bird Walk

Sept. 24
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Endeavors WellFest

Sept. 24
Morgan's Wonderland Sports
5025 David Edwards Drive
endeavors.org

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Doctors, nurses, police, firefighters and EMTs, **September is Frontline Heroes Month at the San Antonio Zoo!** Enjoy free standard admission to the zoo and half-off admission for up to four guests on date of visit. Details at sazoo.org.

Don't Plant — Prep Instead

Summertime — with its scorching heat and severe lack of precipitation — is not the ideal time to plant.

Instead, the best thing you can do for your parched landscape right now is to re-evaluate it and prep it for autumn planting, especially if you want to take advantage of SAWS WaterSaver Coupons come fall.

Here's what you can do now:

- Add compost to turf and beds.

Organic matter increases soil's water-holding capacity and water infiltration.



- **Apply mulch to landscape beds.** Two inches of wood chips or pine bark mulch helps retain moisture for weeks at a time and reduces the required water for plants by half.

Tackle these simple tasks now and you'll be ready to put in new, low-water-use plants when fall planting season begins.

The Big Sewer's Big Finish



It's official: The final pipe segment on the W-6 sewer main replacement was put in place in July. The much-needed infrastructure project along U.S. Highway 90 to SW Military Drive near Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland has involved five miles of tunneling more than 100 feet underground to avoid disrupting traffic and military activity on the surface. When it comes on line in 2023, the whopping 104-inch-wide sewer line will serve more than 500,000 San Antonians. SAWS officials say the \$210 million project is the most costly, complex sewer pipeline constructed in the city's history.

Be Safe, Beat the Heat

Temperatures continue to soar, reaching and breaching the century mark. Dehydration is a big concern on super-hot days as it can lead to heat exhaustion, and in more serious cases, heat stroke.

If possible, just stay indoors. But if you must be outside for work or other reasons, especially in the hottest part of the day, follow these tips to stay safe in the heat.

- Stay hydrated with water and electrolyte drinks. Drink before you feel thirsty.
- Wear sunscreen.

- Plan strenuous activity early in the morning or late evening when it's cooler.
- Avoid alcoholic, sugary and caffeinated drinks.
- Eat plenty of fruits (berries, apples) and veggies (dark leafy greens, peppers, tomatoes).

Persons over the age of 65, those on heart or blood medication, and overweight people are most susceptible to heat stroke. Be sure to check on family and friends who may be vulnerable to the extreme heat.