



Newsletter

March 2022

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: hpwatersewer.com

By Phone: 360-427-2413

Billing Office Hours

Mondays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Tuesdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Thursdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm via teleconference. Visit our website or contact the office for instructions on how to join. All meetings are open to the public.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is not associated with or governed by the Hartstene Pointe Maintenance Association. Please direct water-sewer service related questions to the District.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Check Your Appliances/Fixtures for Safety & Efficiency


It's a good time of year to make some simple checks to prevent avoidable safety-feature failures and efficiency losses. Sometimes it's things you just don't think about. Here are some good things to check on a regular basis, or at the least, on a yearly basis.

1. Hot Water Heater—check the pressure relief valve (PRV) **at least once per year** to make sure in the event of water expansion, water can escape the tank through this valve, avoiding a potentially devastating explosion.
2. Hot Water Heater Expansion Tanks—some hot water heaters have expansion tanks installed (small, knee-high tank installed above main unit), in lieu of relying solely on a pressure relief valve. Feel the tank, which will be cool where it's holding air and warm where it's holding water. If more than half the tank is warm, you have a problem.
3. Smoke Detectors—detectors **must be** installed in *at least* every bedroom and corridor. Home owners are responsible to replace any device over 10 years old (date on back). The best practice for **monthly testing**: hold a couple freshly blown-out matches underneath the detector (test buttons can result in false positives). There are newer detectors on the market that have many advanced smart features—say goodbye to the dreaded battery chirp!
4. Toilet Fixtures—we've mentioned in the past that toilets manufactured before 1992 need to go as they are a **huge and unnecessary** waste of water. In more recent years, affordable toilets are increasingly efficient.

Test for toilet leaks. Test kits are available at hardware stores that let you know if you have even a small leak—even small leaks waste a lot of water.

5. Faucets—all faucets, indoor or outdoor, have parts that *will* eventually fail. Repair parts are often cheap and easily replaced. Or consider replacing an entire fixture with a more efficient one.

The list could go on, but simple, routine checks and preventative maintenance can keep your home at the Pointe in tip-top shape and give you peace of mind.

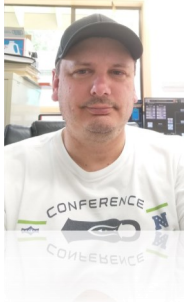


Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"If you have never read the flow rate on your shower heads, take a look—we recommend using shower heads with a flow rate of 1.5 Gallons per Minute (GPM)."

General Manager's Report

Please be kind to our Wastewater Treatment Facility



You may notice, I tend to mention wastewater more so than water. Part of that is being the wastewater operator here for a few years, but also I enjoy it more. I've been a water operator a little longer than a wastewater operator, but the wastewater side has been something I find more satisfying.

I wanted to just remind everyone what's safe to put down your drains, which ends up at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). It's been in our newsletters in the past and our website.

Basically, the rule for what's safe for flushing is the 3 P's: pee, poop, and (toilet) paper. These are what the WWTP is designed for. But far too often, toilets are used to dispose of items that can cause harm to the treatment plant and the environment.

Things like dental floss, Q-tips, feminine hygiene products, condoms, even so-called "flushable" wipes, cause problems in wastewater systems. None of these break down like toilet paper. They can clog up pipes and pumps, causing expensive repairs/time that is better spent elsewhere.

Some people feel when they pour grease down a kitchen sink, they can run hot water and soap and it won't solidify in their drains. But someplace down the line, it will. I've seen many a pump with grease buildup.

Prescription drugs are something else that gets flushed down toilets. Perhaps people think it will get removed in the treatment process at the WWTP, but this is not true. It ends up going out with the effluent into the receiving waterways. Studies are finding traces of these in marine life.

I'm including a link below – I encourage everyone to look it up.

flush3p.org

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager

District & HPMA Staff Join for Excavation Safety Course

District & HPMA staff met in February for a safety course in operating & working around backhoe/excavating equipment. Excavators are large, powerful machines that if operated in an unsafe manner, can cause serious injuries in a split-second.

This is not the first safety training focused on excavator safety. Both entities have need to use excavation equipment for a variety of projects; it is prudent for this type of training to continue to be on the schedule often.

District staff attend safety training every month focusing on many utility-related areas. All water & wastewater outfits have inherent hazards present across the entire infrastructure. District staff follow safety procedures, having been provided with proper personal protective equipment. Safety must constantly be on the mind.

For future excavating projects, while we know residents would like to peak at what's going on, please help us all stay safe by keeping your distance while we work.



Non-flushable items cannot breakdown & buildup in equipment over time, requiring removal by operators and replacing equipment

I took the 3 P Pledge!

Only flush the 3 Ps:
Pee, Poop, and Toilet Paper

You can take the Pledge too! Visit flush3p.org/pledge



Toilets Are **Not** Trashcans