



MODESTO
CALIFORNIA

www.modestogov.com

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CITY OF MODESTO

City Beat

DECEMBER 2013

HEALTHY SEWER=HAPPY HOLIDAYS

DURING THE HOLIDAYS AND WINTER MONTHS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING –

WHAT ARE COMMON PROBLEMS THAT PLUG SEWER LINES?

Even a small amount of grease in sink drains can cause serious blockages in home plumbing or, even worse, a sewer overflow in your home or yard. These substances can also cause stoppages in the City's sewer system. Liquid grease might not appear harmful, but as the liquid cools it attaches to the interior of your pipes reducing their capacity. This solid grease can block the sewer line completely.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A CLEAN SEWER LINE?

Having a clean sewer line saves you a lot of headaches and costly plumbing bills. The City of Modesto encourages all of our customers to stop the problems associated with grease before they occur.

HOW CAN I KEEP MY SEWER HEALTHY?

- Never pour grease material down sink drains or toilets.
- Scrape grease material and food scraps from all cookware and dishware into a metal container to cool. Place in the trash for disposal.
- Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain strainers into the trash for disposal.
- Don't put grease or greasy food in your home garbage disposal. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.
- Wipe cookware and dishware prior to washing. Don't rely on commercial additives in detergents to dissolve grease.
- Pour grease in a metal container and wipe excess fats and grease from pans with a dry paper towel and toss in the garbage.



CITY OFFICES CLOSED

City of Modesto offices, located at 1010 Tenth Street, will be closed for the holidays on:

December 25, 2013
and
January 1, 2014

Utility payments can be made by phone or online 24 hours-a-day/7 days-a-week



Customer Service
(209) 577-5395



Pay by Phone
(209) 577-5395
Option 4



Pay Online at
www.modestogov.com



Recycle Used Motor Oil

Storm drains lead to our rivers and creeks. Help keep our waters clean.

For collection center locations call: 209-577-5493



CALL US FIRST IF YOU EXPERIENCE SEWER PROBLEMS!
(209) 577-6200



WIPES CLOG PIPES!

Many personal hygiene wipes, baby wipes, and cleaning products are marketed as being "flushable." Despite the confusing and misleading labels, you should **never** flush "flushable" or "disposable" products. These products do not break down as they move through the sewer system and may cause blockages in your home sewer lines, resulting in sewer backup in your home. They can also cause blockages in the City's sewer pipes and pumps, causing sewer overflows, costly cleanup and repairs, and extensive environmental damage.

Remember, the only things that should be flushed are human waste and toilet paper. Do not flush items such as disinfecting wipes, paper towels, baby wipes, towelettes, or mop refills. These items should be placed in the trash.

Please contact the City of Modesto Environmental Compliance Section at 577-6200 with any questions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE Christmas and New Year Holiday

There will be **NO** garbage collection on Wednesday, December 25 & Wednesday, January 1

During these two weeks:

- Wednesday customers will be serviced on Thursday
- Thursday customers will be serviced on Friday
- Friday customers will be serviced on Saturday



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION BEGINS IN JANUARY

City of Modesto pruned refuse crews will begin picking up **untreated** green Christmas trees as part of the normal pruned refuse collection.

For Christmas tree collection, the same guidelines apply as the pruned refuse collection for your area. If you do not know which area you are in, please contact the City of Modesto Green Waste Office at 577-5463.

To ensure proper disposal of Christmas trees follow these simple steps:

Disposal of Untreated Green Trees:

- Remove all tree stands, ornaments, rods, garland and tinsel. These items must be removed before the trees will be picked up by City crews.
- Cut trees in half if they are more than six (6) feet tall.
- Place trees curbside to be collected with your regular yard trimmings or cut in pieces to fit in your green waste can.

Disposal of Trees Treated With Flocking, Paint, or Fireproofing:

Trees with flocking, paint, or fireproofing cannot be composted and will **not** be collected by City crews. Flocked, painted or fireproofed trees may be cut up and placed in your black garbage can or taken to one of the garbage company transfer stations. Transfer stations can be found at the following locations:

Gilton Solid Waste
800 S. McClure Road, Modesto
(209) 527-3781

Bertolotti Disposal
231 Flamingo Drive, Modesto
(209) 537-8000

For more information on Christmas tree collection or the City's pruned refuse/green waste program, visit the City of Modesto's Website at http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/trees/green_waste.asp or contact the Green Waste Office at (209) 577-5463.

REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE

Holidays are a time for giving and sharing, and that creates a lot of extra waste!

A typical household generates approximately 45 pounds of trash per week. During the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's, each household produces about 15 additional pounds of trash. Almost all of this extra trash is not recyclable, or simply does not get recycled. Here are some ideas to help reduce waste and have fun while doing it:

- Go on an outing to gather and collect leaves, berries, pinecones, fruits and nuts from trees in your yard or neighborhood to decorate your home.
- Buy a live tree that can be planted after the holiday, or use a smaller potted tree to re-use year after year.
- Decorate your tree with special chocolates and candies, homemade gingerbread cookies, strings of popcorn, and ornaments made from flour or sugar.
- Wrap gifts in something that can be used by the recipient: a bandana, scarf, towel or blanket.
- Reload your empty gift cards and give them as gifts rather than tossing them out.

These are some small and simple things that we can all do to help reduce waste, while reusing and