

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Dental Amalgam Program Update

Close to 50% of dentists with offices in Oro Loma have already installed amalgam separators and have passed an amalgam handling inspection. These dentists have been awarded certificates that acknowledge their efforts to reduce mercury pollution in San Francisco Bay. All dental offices are required to install the separators by the end of this year.



Safe Use and Disposal of Pesticides

Along with longer days and hot weather, summer brings out the bugs. It's only natural to want to get rid of these biting, stinging, garden-destroying pests. But even pesticides that are applied according to label directions can harm the environment. Whenever possible, use "green" alternatives such as homemade sprays of water, oil and liquid soap to treat these invaders, or physically remove the plant pests. When all else fails and you need to turn to commercial pesticides, consider the following:

- Choose a pesticide that is specific to the plant and pest you want to treat.
- Avoid aerosols.
- Buy ready-to-use products rather than concentrates.
- Carefully read and follow all instructions.
- Wear protective gear.
- Store pesticides in their original containers and away from children and pets.
- Never remove labels.



For safe and legal disposal of pesticides:

- NEVER pour pesticides down the drain.
- NEVER throw partially used pesticide containers into the trash.
- ALWAYS take unwanted pesticides to a Hazardous Waste Facility.

Helpful Reminders

Flush Green:

Protect water quality by flushing only toilet paper in the toilet.

Plastic Bag Recycling:

Recycle plastic bags and plastic wrapping by bundling them into one plastic bag and self-tying. Place in recycling cart for pick-up every other week.

Used Motor Oil and Oil Filters

Recycle up to two gallons of used motor oil and oil filters every week curbside. Call (510) 613-8710 for a free used oil and filters recycling kit.

President's Message

Great news! After lowering sewer service rates in fiscal year 2008/09, the Oro Loma Board has chosen to hold rates flat for a second year! As such, the District is not increasing the sewer service rates for any of its customers in 2010/11. A local newspaper recently announced increases in San Leandro, without making a distinction between San Leandro and Oro Loma customers. I want to take this opportunity to assure the San Leandro residents serviced by Oro Loma that they will not see an increase in sewer service rates this year!

In other news, in June 2009, the District implemented a food scrap recycling program. Since then, the amount of green waste and food scraps collected in Oro Loma has increased by 29%! We thank you for participating in the program and helping us inch closer to the voter-approved target of diverting 75% of materials away from the landfill.

The District continues to pursue the goal of self-producing 100% of its power from renewable energy sources. Oro Loma recently concluded a pilot grease-receiving study, which included the temporary installation of a grease-receiving tank and feed pump at the treatment plant. The study showed that, by accommodating grease from restaurants in the service area, the District could significantly increase the production of digester gas, which is then used to produce electricity. Based on these results, Oro Loma is moving forward with the installation of a permanent grease-receiving facility.

Along with the grease-receiving facility, the District continues to work toward the installation of a 500 kW solar array. Once the project is complete (scheduled for October 2010), the District will need to purchase very little power from PG&E.

Lastly, I'd like to extend the Board's and my congratulations to the winners of the 16th annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest. I was impressed and inspired by the talent shown by the students in our District. With such a display of creativity, I can't help but feel that the future is bright.