

POLLUTION PREVENTION

BayWise.org Answers Your Disposal Questions

Want to know what to do with that half-empty can of pesticide or paint thinner? How about that dead car battery or cell phone? BayWise.org has the answer. Go to www.BayWise.org, key in the item you want to discard and your zip code. A list of safe and legal disposal locations near you will be displayed.

Key in “drugs” or “medications” or “pharmaceuticals” and the BayWise’s search engine will display a list of convenient sites that will take your old, expired, or unwanted prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. Proper disposal is important for the health of the environment. Traces of popular heart medications, anti-depressants, antibiotics, cholesterol-lowering drugs, chemotherapy drugs, veterinary drugs, and hormones are turning up in groundwater across the world. A recent

water quality study found these and other drugs present in San Francisco Bay. The easiest way to limit the amount of harmful drugs in our water is to not flush them down the toilet, pour them down the drain, or put them in the trash.

Oro Loma residents are encouraged to dispose of their unwanted pharmaceuticals at the following locations:

1. **Ted’s Drugs**, 27453 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, CA 94545 (510) 782-6494
2. **Davis Street Family Resource Center**, 3081 Teagarden St., San Leandro, CA 94577 (510) 347-4620
3. **Medical Arts Pharmacy**, 13847 E. 14th St., San Leandro, CA 94578 (510) 357-1881

While you are at BayWise, click on the interactive Eco-Home. Here you will find room-by-room tips that will make your home and San Francisco Bay healthier.

BayWise.org also offers the following easy tips for a healthy environment:

Reduce what you buy • Reduce use of toxic pesticides and landscape chemicals • Properly dispose of household hazardous waste • Don’t flush unwanted medication • Prevent fats, oil and grease from going down the drain • Swap out mercury-containing devices for digital ones • Buy rechargeable batteries • Don’t be a litter bug • Wash your car at a commercial car wash • Spread the word!

Each tip includes handy links for more information and guides.

Sewer Replacement Project

Management of the collection system infrastructure is key to providing great service to the citizens of Oro Loma. The collection system includes 280 miles of underground piping and 14 lift stations that carry wastewater from each home or business to the treatment plant.

Oro Loma staff performs photographic inspections of every inch of the District’s 280 mile piping system every 2.5 years. To perform inspections, a collection system worker guides a wheeled camera through the District’s pipes, records the condition, and grades each defect using a nationally recognized scoring system. Based upon the scoring and digitally recorded visuals from the field, engineering staff evaluate and prioritize repairs, and select projects to fit within the \$2M annual budget allocation for ongoing collection system renewal (representing \$43/customer). Typical defects include root intrusion, cracked pipes, and offset joints.

When selecting lines for renewal, pipes are grouped into specific geographic areas of the District to provide construction efficiencies. This year, the targeted area is in the northwest portion of the District, east of Bayfair Mall. Work began in September 2012, and will continue to August 2013. Work on a specific street usually takes a week. During construction, there will be no disruption of service, and residents will retain access to their homes and garages. Property owners will be notified 72 hours before work begins on their street.

Oro Loma uses a trenchless pipe-bursting technique that pulls in a new pipe in the place of the existing. The old pipe is shattered

in the process, and remains in the ground around the newly inserted high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The HDPE pipe is more durable than clay pipe and does not allow root intrusion or groundwater infiltration. Trenchless pipe-bursting is cost effective, allows access to homes and businesses during construction, and is relatively fast to install.

In addition to this \$2 million sewer replacement project, Oro Loma will spend \$1 million to make “spot” repairs in other sections of the District to repair small segments of otherwise sound pipeline. The citizens of Oro Loma may be pleased to know that approximately one third of their sewer service charges are invested back into the collection system infrastructure to provide long-term system performance. The remaining charges are used to renew the treatment facility and to pay for ongoing operational expenses.

Trenchless pipe-bursting causes minimal disruption.

