



September 15, 2020

## King County Industrial Waste Program Newsletter Fall 2020

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*In this edition: mask protocol; receiving KCIW communications; rules comment period closing soon; wineries guidance coming; sampling for cyanide; online payments; metal strand investigation; new database coming; dental deadline coming; prepare your EnvirOvation application.*

**Industrial Waste staff are essential, please help protect them – ensure you and your staff are wearing masks**



Any of us can carry the COVID-19 virus without showing symptoms. We may not realize we're spreading it when we talk, cough or sneeze. Face coverings are required statewide in all public spaces because they are effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19, especially when combined with 6 feet of physical distance.

***Please ask your staff to wear face coverings when KCIW investigators are visiting your facilities.***

Washington employers must ensure workers wear face coverings at work in almost all situations. Employers must provide face coverings if workers do not have them. Employers must comply with this order, which is enforced by the Department of Labor & Industries. [More information.](#)

Businesses and non-profits are required to post signage advising individuals to wear face coverings on the premises. Businesses can [download a sign that can be used for this purpose.](#)

***KCIW staff will be wearing face coverings, too.***

Effective July 7, the Governor's statewide order directs business and non-profits to require and enforce the use of face coverings by all customers or clients. [More information on this face covering requirement and why it's important.](#)

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## Make sure you are receiving communications about your authorization – add KCIW to your trusted senders list

If you have a permit or other authorization with KCIW, we will primarily communicate with you by email. Please make sure that you check your SPAM folder and add the “kingcounty.gov” domain to your “trusted senders” list. Our newsletters and other general announcements will continue to come from this email address: [KingCounty@subscriptions.kingcounty.gov](mailto:KingCounty@subscriptions.kingcounty.gov) but information related to your business and authorization will continue to be sent to you by a kingcounty.gov email address – either KCIW staff or [info.kciw@kingcounty.gov](mailto:info.kciw@kingcounty.gov). Please ensure you are able to receive these important communications.

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## Comment period on KCIW rules is open until September 23rd



The formal Public Comment Period for the revised KCIW rules is open through September 23, 2020. This is your opportunity to make formal comments on the revised rules as part of the administrative record. [Learn more, review the drafts, and submit comments.](#)

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## Companies that violate wastewater rules receive penalties

King County’s Industrial Waste Program (KCIW) regulates industries that discharge wastewater to the sanitary sewer system to protect worker safety, local and regional sewer and treatment infrastructure, and biosolids. KCIW monitors compliance according to federal, state, and local regulations. Many companies must pretreat their wastewater before they put it into the sanitary sewer system and comply with reporting, monitoring, and discharge requirements. KCIW is required to report on companies who violate wastewater rules.



The 2020 fall violators ad will be published in the Seattle Times on Monday September 28th. We will also [post it on our website](#) at that time.

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## Guidance for wineries coming

Wastewater from wineries may be alkaline or acidic, may contain high levels of solids, and can potentially contain higher concentrations of organic matter than typical household wastewater. This can block and/or corrode sewer lines and affect the treatment process at the wastewater treatment plants. To help keep our sewers and wastewater treatment plants operating smoothly KCIW is working on permitting guidelines and best management practices for wineries.



The guidelines will:

- Explain why it is important for wineries to meet discharge limits,
- Help wineries understand if they need formal authorization from KCIW to send their wastewater to the sewer, and
- Explain the permitting process, thresholds, and how a winery can get authorization to discharge to the sewer system.

Implementing best management practices (BMPs) can help wineries meet local discharge limits and manage costs. BMPs are recommended activities, procedures, and equipment that businesses can put in place to minimize the amount of pollutants they discharge to the sanitary sewer and/or release to the environment. The BMPs for wineries will offer guidance on managing and disposing of solids and unused product and managing the pH of their wastewater.

The final guidelines and BMPs will be posted on KCIW's website and announced in a future communication to this list.

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## Tips on sampling for cyanide in your wastewater

Cyanide sampling is required at many facilities. Following proper technique will help you collect cyanide samples that can be processed by a laboratory and help ensure compliance.

[Learn more here.](#)



## A new way to pay King County Industrial Waste invoices for permit issuance fees and penalties

You can now pay for permit issuance fees, post-violation inspection and monitoring program (PVIMP) charges, and penalties [online](#). Some IW fees, like Compliance Monitoring & Administration and surcharge treatment fees, will continue to be billed through your local sewer agency and won't be able to be paid on-line directly to King County. Look for details on your electronic invoice on how to pay online.

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## The case of the metal strands – teamwork leads to the source of treatment system damage

When staff at the Carnation Plant began noticing damage to the membrane filters, King County Industrial Waste investigated. What they found were metal strands causing the damage. Read the full story: <https://kingcountywtd.com/2020/08/18/mbr-metal-fibers/>



## Updating our database so we can serve you better

KCIW is building a new database to store and collect information. We anticipate that by the summer of 2021, industrial users will be able to submit applications, surveys, and self-monitoring data electronically via an on-line portal. We will let you know when it is ready!

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## Working with dental offices to keep mercury out of our water – Deadline for submitting reports is October

***The deadline for submitting a mandatory [one-time compliance report](#) is fast approaching. If you own a dental office that places and/or removes amalgam and have not complied with the regulation, please visit [our website to submit your form](#).***

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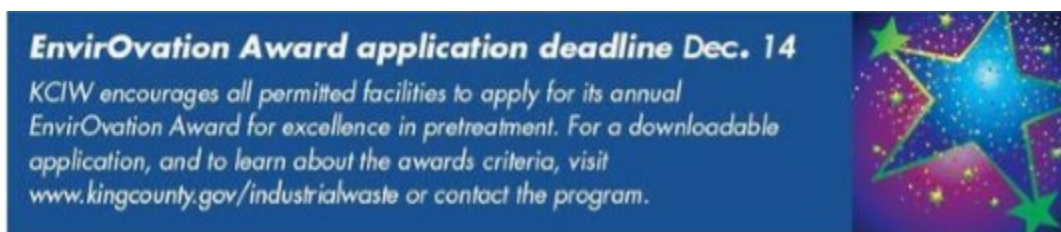
The King County Industrial Waste Program (KCIW) regulates discharges to the sanitary sewer system from dental offices. We are currently working with dental offices to help them comply with a mandatory EPA requirement that controls mercury discharges to the sewer and, in turn, the environment, by requiring amalgam separators.

An amalgam separator takes the mercury and other pollutants out of the water before it goes down the drain in the dentist's office. Mercury levels dropped significantly in the recycled products from King County's wastewater treatment plants after we began working with dentists to install amalgam separators in 2000. [Learn more](#).

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## Start working on your Envirovation Award application!

[Read about award criteria and eligibility.](#)



**Envirovation Award application deadline Dec. 14**  
KCIW encourages all permitted facilities to apply for its annual Envirovation Award for excellence in pretreatment. For a downloadable application, and to learn about the awards criteria, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste](http://www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste) or contact the program.

