



## King County Industrial Waste Program Newsletter - Fall 2021

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

#### King County Covid Practices

- King County now requires all employees to be fully vaccinated, effective Oct. 18, 2021.
- We are required to wear a mask when working indoors or in an enclosed space with others (for example, multiple people in a vehicle).
- Working outdoors, we may remove our masks when working at least six feet from others.



**Please ask your staff to wear face coverings when KCIW investigators are visiting your facilities. KCIW staff will be wearing face coverings, too.**

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### Continued remote staffing for IW (and many other County offices)

In June 2020, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) announced that many DNRP employees would continue to telecommute, even after the pandemic. [DNRP's move to a remote workforce](#) is an effort to reduce our carbon footprint and save public money.



While KCIW conducts most activities with our customers by phone, email and during our periodic visits to facilities, customers can still request to meet with us in person during regular working hours: **8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.**

#### To set up a meeting with a staff member:

- Call KCIW at 206-477-5300 or TTY: 711
- View [staff phone list](#)
- Email us at [info.kciw@kingcounty.gov](mailto:info.kciw@kingcounty.gov)

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## A few information management projects we're working on

- We recently posted a fillable version of the [Wastewater Discharge Permit Application](#). We hope this saves you time. Please let us know if you find any glitches in the way the form works. **Please note: all new applications must use this new form and email it to [info.kciw@kingcounty.gov](mailto:info.kciw@kingcounty.gov).** We can no longer accept applications submitted via FTP site. This will allow us to create a record of receipt of your facility's application and for KCIW to be able to retain a copy of the application for our records long-term.
- King County is working to upgrade its content management system – that's the software we use to build, manage and display our Industrial Waste website. As a part of that project, the IW program is going through the information on our website to make sure it is up to date, relevant and easy to use for our customers.



- With the move out of our physical office to a virtual office space, we have had to figure out what to do with boxes and boxes of records. We are now working to digitize those records. We have digitized over 33,000 documents and we are in the process of labeling and categorizing our records electronically.

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## Violation postings now once a year

KCIW is required to report on companies who violate wastewater rules. To date, we have done this twice a year in the Seattle Times. Beginning in year 2022, violators will only be published once a calendar year. We are making this change based on what is required [in the Federal Requirements](#) that govern our program. The posting will be published each Spring for the previous calendar year.

*Reminder: Late submissions are a frequent and preventable reason for violations and fines. Plan ahead, file your applications and reports on time.*

Company Name	Violation Description	Enforcement Action
ABC Company	Exceeding discharge limits for BOD5	Administrative fine of \$5,000
DEF Company	Failure to maintain accurate records	Warning letter and 30-day compliance period
GHI Company	Unauthorized discharge of hazardous materials	Immediate cessation of discharge and potential criminal charges

## BMPs help wineries stay compliant during the crush

All wineries that send their wastewater to the King County sewer system must make sure their wastewater meets local limits for pH and for solids. Use King County's [best management practices](#) for winery wastewater to help you maintain compliance during the crush.



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## Wastewater that corrodes the sewer system


King County places limits and prohibitions on certain pollutants discharged by industry to the County's sanitary sewer system to try and keep the system safe.

- Wastewater that is too acidic or too alkaline can seriously corrode a sewer system. To prevent corrosion, KCIW sets maximum and minimum pH limits for wastewater discharged into the sanitary sewer. KCIW issues permits to companies that handle corrosive materials.
- Hydrogen sulfide gas can be dangerous to breathe and presents serious odor problems (the smell of rotten eggs). It also reacts with water to form sulfuric acid, which corrodes sewer lines.

In December 2020, KCIW updated the discharge limits for pollutants for two corrosive substances: (pH) and hydrogen sulfide. Learn more about the [pH Local limit](#) and [Hydrogen Sulfide \(in Air\)](#).

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## Sign up to receive this newsletter by email

Questions about the industrial Waste Program? Contact us by phone 206-477-5300 , email [info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov](mailto:info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov) or on the web: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste>.



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