BIG SKY COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT NO. 363

Phosphorus Based Product Prohibitions and Limitations

Phosphorus (phosphoric acid or trisodium phosphate) can be found in some cleaning chemicals, but effective low- and non-phosphorus cleaners are available.

In 2022, the District integrated *Phosphorus Based Product Prohibitions and Limitations*, which established a limit for phosphorus in cleaning products to 0.5% by weight.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Make sure to read your cleaning product labels and strive to purchase and use ***cleaning products that contain little to no phosphorus.*** This will help the District reduce the amount of phosphorus that has to be removed at the WRRF, reducing future rate charges that have to be charged to ratepayers, and further protecting our watershed from potential algae blooms.

Phosphorus is a biological "nutrient" that can fuel algae growth in our waterways.

Phosphorus & Wastewater

Help us keep our costs down. The District's new $50M Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) was designed to remove phosphorus from the water. However, the effectiveness of phosphorus removal depends on the amount of chemicals used by the operators. These chemicals are costly and also increase the generation of WRRF biosolids, which in turn drives up operational costs.

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5 to 8 milligrams per liter of phosphorus in wastewater is normal, from human waste and from cleaning products. The levels observed in ***Big Sky's wastewater are higher (8 to 15 mg/L)*** and are indicative of the possible use of cleaning products having higher than normal or typically available phosphorous concentrations.

The full ordinance language can be found in Article 12 of the Wastewater Use Ordinance:
District Ordinance. 97-1001.Amended 2023-03-28.pdf

(bigskywatersewer.com)