

City of San Jose logo

San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant

Title: Septic Hauler Fact Sheet

Septic wastes are domestic wastes that have been pumped from a treatment tank or a waste holding tank and hauled to another location for final treatment or disposal. The septic hauler program at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant) only accepts domestic wastes originating from septic tanks and portable toilet wastes. Commercial, industrial and wastes of other origin may not be discharged as septic wastes because they are subject to separate permitting requirements.

The Plant accepts wastes from all of the county of Santa Clara except those areas within the incorporated cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos Hills, Monte Vista, Gilroy and Morgan Hill.

The geographic limits of Sewage Service Agencies tributary to the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant include the Cities of San Jose, Santa Clara, Campbell, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, Cupertino, and Milpitas; and County Sanitation Districts No. 2, 3, & 4, Burbank Sanitary District, Cupertino Sanitary District, Milpitas Sanitary District and Sunol Sanitary District.

The Ultimate Tributary Area includes all of Santa Clara County except those areas within the incorporated cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Monte Vista, Gilroy and Morgan Hill.

Do I need a Permit to dispose of my Septic Waste?

Yes. The San Jose Municipal Code, Section 9.08.1480 states:

No person shall deliver or discharge domestic septic tank cleanings into the San José-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant receiving station facilities provided for such delivery and discharge, unless such person has a valid and subsisting receiving station use permit (hereinafter in this chapter termed “permit”) issued by the city pursuant to the provisions of this part.

How Do I Obtain a Permit?

(All phone numbers are current as of February 2007)

1. You must first obtain a health permit and pay current fees (\$981.00 through July 1, 2007), have your vehicle inspected, and have a registration sticker affixed to the windshield at the Santa Clara County Dept. of Environmental Health, Solid Waste Program.

(Include picture of a sample registration sticker) Note: DEH would not prefer to publish a picture of the sticker to avoid forgeries. We would suggest you publish a picture of a truck windshield with a mounted sticker that is too small to replicate.

Ph. (408) 918-1961

Contact the lead Senior, who administers the pumper program

Address: 1555 Berger Dr., Room 300, San Jose, CA 95112

2. Provide a \$1,000 cash or \$1,000 corporate surety bond payable to the City of San Jose, Treasury Division.

Ph. (408) 535-7040

Address: City Hall Tower

200 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95113

3. Provide insurance requirements to the City of San Jose, Risk Management.

Ph. (408) 535-7060

Address: City Hall Tower, 4th Floor

200 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95113

4. Complete a Business Tax registration form and pay the appropriate business tax. The tax schedule and application form are available at the City of San Jose, Finance Dept.

Ph. (408) 535-7055

Address: City Hall Tower, 4th Floor

200 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95113

www.csjfinance.org/biztax.pdf

Upon receipt of the above documents and fees, the City of San Jose Treasury division will issue a Receiving Station Use Permit.

5. Plant personnel will schedule a meeting with you to review your responsibilities.

What are the Delivery and Disposal Fees?

1. If you discharge a load collected from a property within the geographic limits of any sewage services agency tributary to the Plant, the charge is seven dollars and fifty cents plus \$0.005 per gallon.
2. If you discharge a load collected from a property outside the geographical limits of any sewage services agency tributary to the Plant but within the geographical limits of the Ultimate Tributary Area, the charge is fifteen dollars plus \$0.01 per gallon.

3. Mixed loads(septic tank cleanings from both inside and outside of the geographical limits of cities and sewage service agencies tributary to the Plant) will be charged at fifteen dollars plus \$0.01 per gallon.

How do I prepare my Hauling Vehicle?

1. Attach Santa Clara County Registration Sticker to the windshield.
2. Place the name and address of the Permit holder and the vehicle load capacity on both sides of the vehicle in four inch high letters.
3. Install a sight glass or other device that indicates load gallonage.

What are my Responsibilities?

1. At the gate, before entering the Plant premises, obtain a sample bottle.
2. Follow the designated route to the discharge station.
3. Drive safely on Plant premises and obey the speed limit.
4. Collect a sample of the trucked waste in the bottle provided at the gate upon entry to the Plant.
5. Safely offload the vehicle contents at the designated discharge station.
6. Hose off the area so it is clean and odor-free.
7. Completely and accurately fill-out the *Pumping and Disposal Report* form provided by the County of Santa Clara. The *Pumping and Disposal Report* must be submitted prior to entering the Plant and must contain the following:
 - Delivery vehicle license number
 - Name of the driver
 - Name of the customer
 - Street address and the city of the origin of the load
 - Type of waste (septic or chemical toilet)
 - Gallons pumped
8. On your way out of the Plant, drop off the sample you collected of your trucked waste at the gate.
9. Send White copies of the *Pumping and Disposal Report* to Santa Clara County DEH on a monthly basis.

Sampling

The Plant laboratory analyzes the samples collected to determine if the delivered waste load is domestic waste.

Consequences of Illegal Discharge

If your sample is found to contain non-domestic waste, if the waste originates outside of the accepted area, or if you discharge waste at a non-designated area you could face the following consequences:


- Forfeiture of your bond
- Suspension or revocation of your Permit
- Investigation for possible prosecution

Other causes of Permit Revocation/Suspension

- Permit application contains false material or information
- Failure to maintain bond and insurance requirements
- Failure to maintain existing permit conditions
- Dispose and/or transport sanitary sewage in an unlawful manner
- Failure to pay all applicable fees and charges

The treatment Plant is designed to treat wastewater by removing pollutants normally found in domestic sewage. The Plant is not designed to remove certain pollutants that are characteristic in commercial and industrial processing and manufacturing wastes. When non-domestic wastes enter the plant, pollutants that do not respond to treatment will “pass through” the treatment system. When this occurs, the discharges can endanger Plant workers, interfere with the operation of the Plant, contaminate sludge (a treatment by-product), and ultimately, cause the Plant to be in violation of its NPDES effluent discharge limits and releasing toxic wastewater into the South San Francisco Bay.

Effects of Illegal Discharges

A picture of law books, lawyers, money, jail, etc.	Discharge violations can have legal, punitive and administrative ramifications for both the treatment Plant, and the discharger.
A laboratory picture of “chemistry gone awry”	Hazardous substances can endanger workers by generating explosives conditions in the sewer, releasing toxic fumes and causing chemical burns.
A picture of a sewer network	Acidic discharges can result in sewer line failure, pump station failure, collection interceptor breakdown, disruption of service, and uncontrolled releases of wastewater.
	Pollutants of concern in the wastewater can inhibit or disrupt Plant operations and sludge processes.
Picture of the Bay	Pollutants that do not respond to treatment will “pass through” the treatment system, causing the Plant to be in violation of its NPDES effluent discharge limits and releasing toxic wastewater into the South San Francisco Bay.

What are Normal days/hours of discharge?

The discharge station at the Plant is open Monday through Friday, 7:00am – 4:00pm. For more information or to arrange an off-hour disposal, call (408) 945-3000.