

# NEWSLETTER

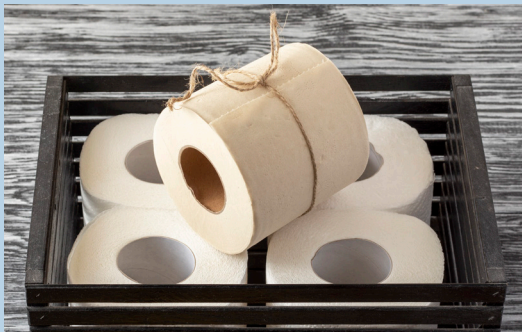
Winter 2022



Kitsap County Public Works | Sewer Utility



U.S. consumers use a fifth of the world's toilet paper but only account for 4% of population



Several new companies now offer bamboo toilet paper as a sustainable alternative



Recycled toilet paper dissolves quickly and is recommended for sewer and septic systems

## THE BREAKDOWN ON TP

If the last two years have taught us anything, it's that we love our toilet paper. It's also shown that some people will flush other things if they don't have toilet paper on hand. Sewer utilities across the country have had increased maintenance costs from removing wipes from the system. Wipes, even those labeled as flushable, can cause clogs and sewer spills. Toilet paper is the only product safe to flush.

While all toilet paper is flushable, there is a wide variety of brands ranging from those advertising comfort to those that are less impactful on the environment. Toilet paper made from recycled paper performs the best at dissolving in water and does not have an impact on forests. Environmental groups have estimated that between 10-15% of deforestation is driven by toilet paper production.



Several new companies are producing toilet paper made from bamboo, which is a more sustainable option than paper made with virgin forest materials. This product dissolves well in water but is also soft and strong. Mostly sold online, bamboo toilet paper may be a good compromise for those that want comfort but with less impact on the environment.

Most of the toilet paper we use is produced here in the U.S. We also use more of it than any other country, with Americans consuming 20% of toilet paper produced worldwide. About 70-75% of the world's population does not use toilet paper at all. The average person uses 100 rolls per year. If every American household replaced just one toilet paper roll of virgin-fiber a year with a roll made from 100% recycled paper, approximately 425,000 trees would be saved annually. (Source: [toiletpaperhistory.net](http://toiletpaperhistory.net))

For the past few years, the non-profit organization National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has compiled a report and a scorecard called "The Issue with Tissue." NRDC evaluated 44 toilet paper brands in 2021. A total of 11 toilet papers made with recycled materials scored an A or A+. Major brands using virgin forest materials brought up the rear with F scores. See how your toilet paper rates. Find the scorecard at [nrdc.org](http://nrdc.org).

# 27,000 A DAY

The estimated number of trees cut down worldwide to produce toilet paper. Brands with at least 90% postconsumer recycled content are better for our environment.

How does your toilet paper rank? Check out the "Issue with Tissue" Scorecard at [nrdc.org](http://nrdc.org).

## CAN THE GREASE AND PROTECT YOUR PIPES

Free "Can the Grease" kits are available for our residential customers to encourage proper disposal of Fats, Oils and Grease, commonly referred to as "FOG." When poured down a drain, FOG can clog pipes on your property or in the sewer system. Approximately 65% of sewer spills are FOG-related.

Hot water and soap may wash FOG down the drain, but it will eventually cool and solidify in pipes where it can cause clogs and sewage backups. Avoid putting FOG in the garbage disposal as well. It will grind up foods, but greasy particles can still cling to pipes.

The free "Can the Grease" kit includes a reusable lid that fits most standard-size food cans and a scraper to transfer grease to the can. It also includes instructions for proper



disposal of grease and options for recycling cooking oil, which is accepted at all Kitsap County recycling and garbage and facilities. Visit [Recycle.Kitsapgov.com](https://www.kitsapgov.com/Recycle) for hours and locations.

Call Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777 to request your free kit or email [help@kitsap1.com](mailto:help@kitsap1.com) with "Can the Grease" in the subject line and your name and address in the email. The kits may also be distributed directly to certain residential areas that have FOG in the sewer system. Thank you for helping us prevent sewer spills.

## SEWER UTILITY AWARDED \$10 MILLION DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GRANT

Kitsap County will receive \$10 million dollars in grant funds from the Department of Defense to support replacing the sewer force main serving Naval Base Kitsap at Bangor and Keyport. The grant is the largest of 13 awarded under the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation.

The grant is part of the financing in place for the sewer main replacement project, part of the Sewer Utility Six-Year Capital Facilities Plan. The project replaces the sewer forcemain from the Bangor Base to the Central Kitsap Treatment Plant (CKTP) in Brownsville. It also includes replacing the forcemain from State Highway 308 to CKTP, which supports flows from Poulsbo and Keyport. Construction is scheduled from March 2022 until June 2023.

"This project is important to the military families, workforce, and the community around our Bangor and Keyport bases," said Capt. Rich Massie, Naval Base Kitsap commanding officer. "Naval Base Kitsap is proud of its partnership in helping secure federal funding to replace this vital infrastructure, especially for this county that so deeply supports the Navy's mission and our Sailors and Marines and their families," Capt. Massie added.

"This grant is an important element for the project," said Barbara Zaroff, Sewer Utility Capital Projects Engineer. "It helps offset the construction costs shared proportionately between the Sewer Utility, the City of Poulsbo and the Navy," she added. Additional funding will come from the Washington State Department of Commerce Public Works Trust Fund.

Find more information about this and other Public Works capital projects at [Kitsapgov.com/pw](https://www.kitsapgov.com/pw).

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Kitsap County Public Works Sewer Utility has several projects under construction in 2022. This includes several upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities. The largest of these is a \$2.5 million repair project for the digesters at the Central Kitsap Treatment Plant. These are necessary repairs to protect health and safety of the staff and maintain our Department of Ecology permit for biosolids.

Other treatment projects for 2022 include new structural coatings in basins at the Suquamish and Manchester plants and pipe upgrades in Suquamish.

Construction on Bay Shore Drive in Silverdale is expected to continue through the end of the year. This is a joint project with the Stormwater and Roads Divisions. Learn more at [kcowa.us/baywash](https://www.kcowa.us/baywash).

Other Kitsap County sewer projects include infrastructure repairs in Navy Yard City, upgrades to pump stations 19 and 31 in Central Kitsap, replacement of the sewer forcemain under Chico Creek Bridge, and replacement of over five miles of forcemain from the Bangor and Keyport Naval Bases to the Central Kitsap Treatment Plant.

These projects are all included in the 2022-2027 Sewer Utility Capital Facilities Plan, available online at [Kitsapgov.com/pw](https://www.kitsapgov.com/pw).

## UTILITY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

If you are having trouble paying utility bills, Kitsap Community Resources may be able to help. The Kitsap Eviction Assistance Program (KEPA) can back clients back rent and utilities for up to 12 months for those that are behind and can pay for move in costs for those that have to relocate due to COVID-19.

To be eligible for this program you need to be behind on rent or utilities, have experienced a financial hardship due to COVID, and be under 50% Area Median income. Please check the Kitsap Community Resources website at [kcr.org](https://www.kcr.org) or call the Housing Solutions Center at (360) 473-2035 for the latest information on rent assistance and to see the income qualification chart.

Applications are accepted online at [kcr.org](https://www.kcr.org) or in person at 1201 Park Avenue in Bremerton. If you apply in person, please bring your KEPA Pre-Application filled out. The Pre-Application and more information are available on Kitsap County's KEPA website: <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-KEPA.aspx>.

Once your application is submitted, you will be placed on a waitlist for rent assistance. If you have any questions, please call the Housing Solutions Center at 360.473.2035. This program is expected to continue throughout 2022.

Kitsap Community Resources is committed to creating hope and opportunity for low-income Kitsap County residents by providing resources that promote self-sufficiency and stability. Learn more about their programs and how to get involved at [kcr.org](https://www.kcr.org).

