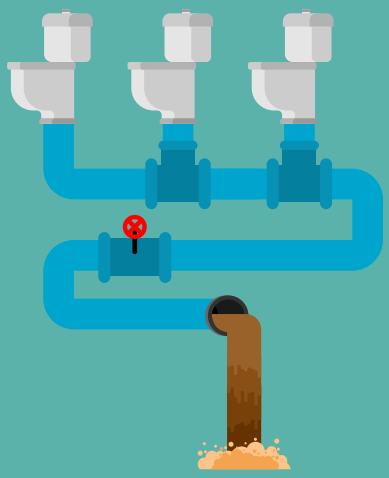


HOW TO PREVENT SEWAGE POLLUTION

Hawai‘i has over 83,000 cesspools that discharge over 52 million gallons/day of raw sewage into the ground and water. Cesspools and failing septic systems contaminate drinking water, ruin underground aquifers and pollute marine environments. Sewage pollution contains many types of harmful bacteria, parasites, and viruses, and is harmful to human and environmental health. It also has high nutrient levels, which are damaging to reefs, and contain contaminants of emerging concern like pharmaceuticals.



If converting your cesspool or failing septic system to is not an option for you at this time, there are small ways to help reduce pollution from your cesspool until you can. Continue reading to see how you can get involved in restoring healthy watersheds, protect the marine ecosystems, and help improve drinking water.

1 Avoid harsh cleansers & soaps

Chemicals like bleach can be fatal for marine organisms like coral and fish. Harsh chemicals can also harm the microorganisms in the soil that help break down raw sewage. Especially when cesspools are situated near the coast, these chemicals can easily be transported to the nearshore marine ecosystem.

2 Beware of falsely named "flushable" items

Many types of wipes and products are labeled flushable when they actually do not break down in sewage treatment facilities, much less in a cesspool where there is no treatment. Baby wipes and other so-called "flushable" wipes can clog waste disposal systems and take a very long time to degrade in the environment. Many baby wipes have microplastic fibers that can make their way to the ocean and contribute to ocean microplastic pollution.

3 Foods scraps belong in the compost

Organic food waste adds nutrients to your wastewater and increases the biological oxygen demand. When nutrients reach the coastal ocean it can cause undesirable algal growth, reduces dissolved oxygen in the environment, and adversely affects water clarity. All of those changes have a negative impact on coral. Composting is an environmentally friendly alternative.

4 Feminine products are a no-go

Similar to "flushable" wipes, feminine products do not readily degrade and can clog up wastewater disposal systems. These products additionally can contain plastics that can enter the marine environment. Dispose of feminine products in the trash, or as an even more eco-friendly option, switch to reusable products such as silicone period cups or reusable period panties.

info@waicleanwater.com | www.waicleanwater.org