

## PIMA COUNTY

## Sewers Differ Among Communities

Pima County and the cities and towns within it are served by two types of sewers:

- During storms, **storm sewers** carry rainwater away from streets into washes and arroyos. Storm sewers are referred to as storm drains.
- **Sanitary sewers** carry wastewater that is flushed down residential and commercial toilets, sinks, bathtubs and other drains into the sanitary sewer system.

In Pima County these two sewer systems are separate. However, in many parts of the nation, storm water and sanitary sewage are moved in a single system, “combined sewers.” Because combined sewers are common in many parts of the nation, you may have lived in a community that has this type of infrastructure.

The flows from combined sewers typically are conveyed to wastewater treatment facilities, where human waste, pollutants from motor vehicles (i.e.: gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, etc.) and other compounds from streets, waterways and the environment mingle and must be treated together.

Because the wastewater treatment process is designed to treat biological waste, it is more difficult to treat the flows from combined systems.

In Pima County, wastewater is carried through the sanitary sewer system to one of 11 wastewater treatment facilities.

Except for part of the Town of Sahuarita, all publicly-owned sanitary sewers in Pima County are owned and operated by the county’s Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department.

Each jurisdiction in Pima County operates its own storm water system, which includes storm drains, open channels and natural washes. The Pima County Regional Flood Control District owns and operates the storm drains in unincorporated areas in Pima County. The City of Tucson, City of South Tucson, Town of Marana, Town of Sahuarita and Town of Oro Valley own and operate their own storm water systems.

If you are experiencing an overflow of a sanitary sewer in Pima County, please call (520) 443-6500.

## CITY OF TUCSON

## October Kick-Off ‘Know Where to Throw’ Program

In October Environmental Services (ES) will kick off “**Know Where to Throw**”, a new waste diversion program that will help others and save precious space in our landfills. The goal of the program is to inform Tucsonans about all the recycling and reuse options available to them in Tucson.

To kick off the “**Know Where to Throw**” effort, ES will hold a community drive to collect “recyclables” that are often overlooked: items that can be reused or recycled at drop-off locations in our community. For this drive, ES has identified four items – crayons, eyeglasses, bras, and athletic shoes – that will be collected from **October 3 through October 28**:

- ✳ **Crayons** will be donated to the City’s Parks and Recreation Department for use in classes and programs for school-age children.
- ✳ **Eyeglasses** will be delivered to the Lions Clubs International which distributes the glasses collected worldwide.
- ✳ **Bras** will be collected and delivered to the Bra Recyclers, a company that has partnered with local agencies who distribute the undergarments to women in need. This October drive coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- ✳ **Athletic shoes** will be shipped to Nike, where they are broken down and shredded and then used for athletic court surfaces and in new shoes.

If you would like to help out and clear some space at home, bring your items to any City Council Ward Office and City Hall. You’ll find a location near you!

**Your utilities services statement includes fees for your water, wastewater, and environmental services.**

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) – For more information about the regional wastewater system, call (520) 740-6500 or visit [pima.gov/wwm](http://pima.gov/wwm).

Environmental Services (ES) – Learn about how ES is protecting our groundwater and the environment at [tucsonaz.gov/esd](http://tucsonaz.gov/esd) and (520) 791-3171.