

GOLETA SANITARY DISTRICT
GOLETA WEST SANITARY DISTRICT

ISSUES

INFORMATION ON ISSUES OF COMMUNITY CONCERN



Biosolids, Too Valuable To Waste*

WHY SO MANY GOLETA GARDENERS ARE USING BIOSOLIDS...

Flush a toilet, drain the bath, or empty the dishwasher...where does the wastewater go? Although it seems to simply disappear, wastewater actually flows through sewers to the Wastewater Treatment Plant near Santa Barbara Airport.

What happens in the treatment plant is as old as nature. The waste is transformed into a useful soil amendment that helps break up clay soils. These biosolids also serve as a light fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorous.

Ancient societies simply spread human and animal waste on the soil and allowed it to biodegrade slowly. Modern treatment plants process and disinfect waste faster, safely, and more thoroughly.

We encourage you to learn more about this valuable soil amendment and to try it yourself. You'll find answers to most of your questions right here in this brochure.

What Are Biosolids?

Biosolids are a nutrient-rich, processed organic material from the wastewater treatment process. The old, less glamorous name for this compost-like material is sewage sludge. But when thoroughly processed in a modern treatment plant, and tested and approved to meet tough federal quality standards, it is given a new name: biosolids.



HIGH PROFILE USES FOR BIOSOLIDS

The lush lawns of the White House, the Mount Vernon estate, and the National Arboretum have all thrived on soil mixed with composted biosolids.*

*Developed with materials published by the Water Environment Federation, 801 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1994.

BIOSOLIDS ARE USED FOR:

Biosolids are returned to the environment in a variety of ways. The biosolids produced in Goleta are used primarily as a landscape amendment. Properly treated biosolids make an excellent soil conditioner and source of organic nutrients.

COMMERCIAL SOIL AMENDMENTS

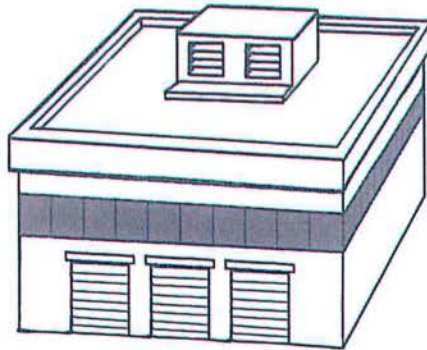
Biosolids are a key ingredient in many commercial soil amendments. They help improve the soil's capacity to hold water and nutrients needed for plant growth.

OTHER USES

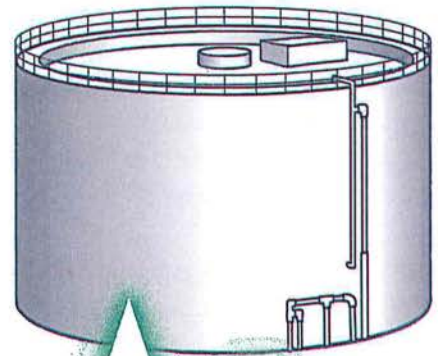
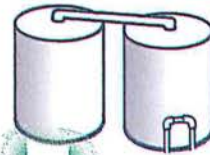
Biosolids are used in a variety of other ways, too: to make bricks, burn as fuel, fertilize highway median strips, and as covering for landfills.

How Biosolids are Recycled — The

PRE-TREATMENT programs prohibit industry and businesses from flushing contaminants into the sewer system. They must remove contaminants on-site.

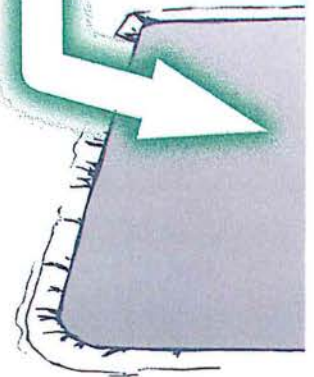
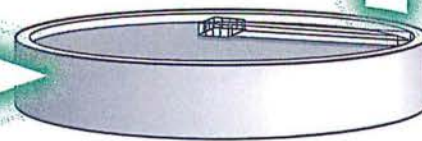


DECOMPOSITION begins in large heated tanks called digesters, where bacteria thrive and consume the organics.



WASTES are collected in sewers and brought to the wastewater treatment plant.

SOLIDS are separated out in clarifiers - pools of wastewater where the heavier solids sink to the bottom.



BIOSOLIDS ARE SAFE

Every batch of biosolids is thoroughly tested for heavy metals, organic materials, bacteria and more. Goleta's biosolids are so clean that they meet strict *Regulation 503* standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency for biosolids with *exceptional quality*.

To provide an extra measure of safety, County Environmental Health Services recommends that biosolids not be used on edible root plants such as carrots and potatoes - particularly those eaten raw.

PRE-TREATMENT PROGRAM PROTECTS QUALITY

Both Goleta West Sanitary District and Goleta Sanitary District operate strict industrial pre-treatment programs that require local industry to treat its own waste. This keeps heavy metals, solvents and other contaminants out of the sewer system.

The Districts enforce these controls because it is safer and less costly to remove contaminants at the source. Pre-treatment also protects the quality of biosolids.

Way Nature Does It, Only Faster

TESTED:
District chemists
and state-certified
laboratories
test biosolids
to meet strict
federal quality
regulations.



FREE:
You can bag
biosolids
yourself or we'll
help you load by
the truckload.

DRIED:
The decomposed
solids are spread
out to dry in the
sun, becoming a
soft, dry, soil
amendment.

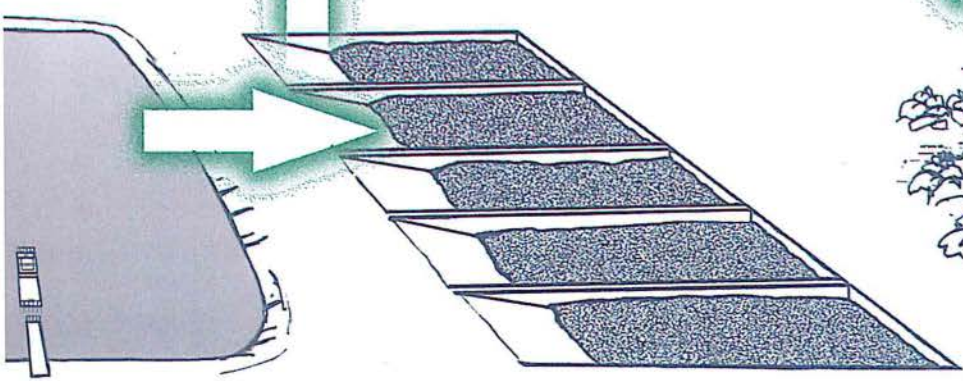


RECYCLED:
Biosolids are
taken to
gardens and
lawns
throughout the
Goleta Valley
and returned
to the earth.

BIOLOGICAL
decomposition
continues in a
large pond,
where the
beneficial
wastes spend
up to 3 years
exposed to
bacteria and
sunlight.



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GOOD FOR COMMUNITY

Biosolids recycling in Goleta saves about \$170,000 in landfill costs each year. It takes nitrogen-rich wastes that would otherwise be a water contaminant and turns them into a valuable soil amendment. Biosolids save money, improve the environment and upgrade the health of gardens and farms.

GOOD FOR ENVIRONMENT

Just as recycling cans and bottles makes good environmental sense, so does biosolids recycling. Biosolids improve soil fertility, break up clay soil and decrease runoff. Using biosolids also reduces the need for landfills and petroleum-based fertilizers.

- Human and animal wastes are naturally recycled.
- Nature relies on microorganisms to consume organic materials, alternating heat and cold to break them down, and sunlight to disinfect them.
- Wastewater agencies recycle solids with techniques patterned on nature's process.



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

Cooperation the Key

The mission of both Goleta Sanitary District and Goleta West Sanitary District is simple: to collect, treat and dispose of wastewater in a safe and cost-effective way. The two agencies work closely together to accomplish this goal. For example, they both participate in Goleta Sanitary District's large treatment plant and enforce pre-treatment programs to produce safe biosolids.

Recycle Wisely

Although wastewater seems to simply disappear after each flush, the truth is that we cannot make anything simply "disappear." There is no magic — everything we take from the environment is returned to it in one form or another.

An Environmental Solution

The most responsible way to use wastewater solids is to recycle them back into the soil. It is cost-effective, good for the earth and good for plants. Biosolids are a good, reusable, and natural resource. We hope you will come and pick up some yourself. Biosolids are free, and easy to get. Just call the number below for instructions.

THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF
GOLETA SANITARY DISTRICT AND
GOLETA WEST SANITARY DISTRICT

**PS: PLEASE CALL 967-4519 TO ARRANGE TO PICK UP
BIOSOLIDS AND GIVE YOUR GARDEN OR LANDSCAPE A
BOOST.**

Give Biosolids A Try

EXCELLENT SOIL AMENDMENT

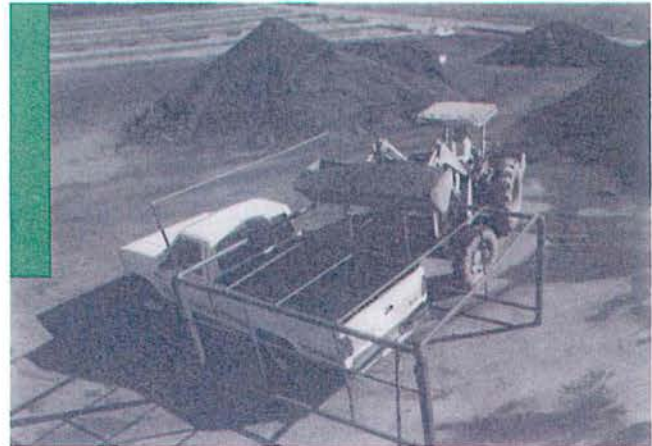
The wastewater treatment process leaves a dry, earthy-smelling material called biosolids that makes a great soil amendment.

CLASS A QUALITY

The biosolids generated by local sanitary Districts are rated Class A by the US Environmental Protection Agency, making them a quality soil amendment and plant fertilizer. To maintain the Class A rating, the Districts process our biosolids carefully and test every batch for a wide range of contaminants.


BIOSOLIDS ARE FREE

Biosolids are a key ingredient in many commercial soil amendments. But you can get them free by calling Goleta Sanitary District at 967-4519 and making an appointment for a pick-up. District staff will be pleased to help load your truck.



Bag biosolids yourself or we'll load them by the truckload. Either way, it's free.



BIOSOLIDS ARE SO POPULAR WITH LOCAL GARDENERS THAT SOMETIMES WE RUN OUT. PLEASE CALL 967-4519 BEFORE COMING TO MAKE SURE WE CAN SERVE YOU.

 Printed on Recycled Paper.
Each ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR GOLETA VALLEY RESIDENTS

GOLETA SANITARY DISTRICT
GOLETA WEST SANITARY DISTRICT

ISSUES



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