



DPU Scoop



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CONSERVATION

Preventive drain and sewer pipe maintenance tips

No one wants to deal with sewer clogs and backups, and it usually takes a catastrophe before proactive habits become the norm. These relatively simple tips can go a long way in avoiding a costly and stinky problem:

1. Never flush anything that isn't pee, poop, or toilet paper. "Flushable" wipes are not flushable!
2. Scrape food waste (ESPECIALLY GREASE!) into the trash before washing dishes.
3. Use a mesh screen or strainer in your drains to catch food particles, hair and other debris.
4. Experience frequent slow drains or clogs? Cleaning out your sewer lines every 2 years could help.
5. Avoid planting trees and shrubs near sewer lines to minimize root intrusions.
6. Install Backwater Prevention Valves. Learn more online at Ladpu.com/backwater.
7. Maintain the health of your septic system. Watch what you're adding into it and pump it out as needed.
8. Maintain your garbage disposal. Avoid fibrous or starchy foods and use cold water to flush it.



In need of a drain cleaner?

Mechanical cleaning (drain snake/water jet): sometimes clogs are beyond pouring a liquid down your drains

Caustic cleaners (lye/potash): these produce heat to break down food/grease turning the residue into a soap-like substance. Use caution with older piping and septic systems.

Oxidizing cleaners (bleach/peroxide/nitrates): these cleaners oxidize clogs with heat and gas to break up organic matter. Use caution with older piping and septic systems.

Enzyme cleaners (bacteria): bacteria-produced enzymes that break down organic matter and are generally safe on all types of pipes and septic systems.

Strategies for steering clear of hantavirus

Hantaviruses are spread from rodents to people and can cause serious illness that affects the lungs and kidneys. The virus can get into the air when fresh urine, droppings, or nesting materials of an infected rodent are stirred up. The virus can also spread when saliva, urine, or feces from an infected animal gets into cuts in a person's skin or their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Reduce your risk of exposure by eliminating or minimizing contact with rodents in your home, workplace, or campsites. Follow these important tips when you see evidence of rodents:

- Clean with the proper disinfectant.
- Wear proper protective equipment where rodents may be present.
- Follow proper steps to clean up urine, droppings, and dead rodents or nests.
- Place traps in and around your home and clean traps before you reuse them.
- Clean up outbuildings like cabins, sheds, barns, and air ducts.
- Inspect and disinfect vehicles.
- Clean up any food that might attract rodents. Disinfect surfaces.
- Seal holes and gaps in the structure of your home or garage.



Visit the CDC website for detailed cleaning instructions. Redirect from this DPU short web link: ladpu.com/CDC.

To learn more about living with wildlife on the Pajarito Plateau, visit the County website at www.lacnm.com/wildlife.

Rates to change July 1

Service	Charge Type	Thru 6/30	Starting 7/1	Frequency
ELECTRICITY				
Residential	Service Charge	12.60	17.60	per month
Residential	Commodity Rate	0.1413	0.1463	per kwh
Commercial	Service Charge	23.10	25.18	per month
Commercial	Small Meter	0.1351	0.14763	per kwh
Commercial	Large Meter	0.0985	0.1074	per kwh
Commercial	Demand	13.20	13.20	per KW of peak demand
Area Lighting (metered)	Service Charge	1.43	1.56	per light
Area Lighting (metered)	Metered Rate	0.1526	0.1663	per kwh
Area Lighting (Private)	70-Watt Monthly	4.13	4.50	per bulb
Area Lighting (Private)	100-Watt Monthly	5.80	6.32	per bulb
Area Lighting (Private)	175-Watt Monthly	9.71	10.58	per bulb
Area Lighting (Private)	400-Watt Monthly	20.55	22.40	per bulb
Area Lighting (Res'l/Comm'l)	70-Watt Monthly	5.40	5.89	per bulb
Area Lighting (Res'l/Comm'l)	100-Watt Monthly	7.27	7.92	per bulb
Area Lighting (Res'l/Comm'l)	175-Watt Monthly	11.15	12.15	per bulb
Area Lighting (Res'l/Comm'l)	400-Watt Monthly	21.99	23.97	per bulb
SEWER				
All Customer Classes	Service Charge	13.11	14.03	per month
Residential	Base Charge	47.45	50.77	per month
Multi-Family	Base Charge	39.54	42.31	per dwelling unit/month
Non-Residential	Commodity Rate	22.33	23.89	per 1,000 gallons

For county & school rates, visit <https://ladpu.com/allrates>

All above rate changes were adopted by County Council on June 10, 2025

DPU is a Public Utility!

What does that mean?

Unlike an investor-owned utility, DPU focuses on service and community involvement rather than profits. DPU is a department under the Los Alamos County government, owned by the community, and governed by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU).

Consisting of five voting members appointed by the Los Alamos County Council, BPU is comprised of locals—they are customers of DPU, Los Alamos tax payers, and your neighbors.

BPU meetings are open to the public. The board meets on the first Wednesday of each month for work sessions and the third Wednesday of each month for regular meetings. All meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Los Alamos County Municipal Building at 1000 Central Ave. The public may attend in person or via Zoom. Meeting links can be found at ladpu.com/BPU.

Small steps,
big difference.

PLASTIC
FREE JULY



Join millions of people worldwide choosing to refuse single-use plastic.

PlasticFreeJuly.org

Reducing single-use plastics

Did you sign DPU's Clean Pipeline Pledge when visiting the Municipal Building? After picking up your roll of bamboo toilet paper, you may have noticed a reference to "Plastic Free July" on the pledge card.

Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution — so we can have cleaner streets, oceans and beautiful communities.

What can you do?

- Skip the little plastic bag when picking out produce. Use compostable or reusable bags instead.
- Use reusable shopping bags or boxes for groceries.
- Bring your own (BYO) cup or sit and enjoy your choice beverage in a real cup at the coffee shops.
- DPU produces amazing water! BYO bottle to refill instead of buying some other community's tap water in a bottle.
- Ditch the plastic straws or BYO reusable version.
- Choose reusable containers for storing food instead of plastic wrap.

Also, responsibly dispose of cigarette butts and balloons.

These tips may not all be for you, but maybe one is! Learn more at PlasticFreeJuly.org.

FIND DPU ONLINE!

Connect through our Linktree at <https://ladpu.com/Links>

