Prevent cockroach infestations and sewer line blockage issues with a few simple tips from the City of Mesa’s Water Resources Department.

**Roach Control Solutions & Preventing Sewer Blockages**

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

- Benjamin Franklin

**FOG - Fats, Oil & Grease**

Fats, oil and grease (FOG) cause sewer blockages leading to spills and overflows. These spills can result in damage to your home or business. The good news is that it is preventable.

FOG in liquid form may not seem harmful, but as they cool, it congeals and hardens sticking to the inner lining of the sewer pipes. This restricts the wastewater flow, eventually causing a blockage. Prevent problems by wiping FOG residue from pans or dishes; pour FOG into a container, then place it in the trash; and place a strainer in the sink to catch debris which can cause a future blockage.

For more info go to www.mesaz.gov/water/proper_disposal.aspx.

**Property Owner’s Sanitary Sewer Responsibilities**

The Mesa City Code provides that property owners are responsible for cleaning, maintaining, unstopping and repairing the sewer line that connects their property to the public sewer system operated by the Water Resources Department.

It is always in the best interests of property owners to take preventative measures to help avoid costly repairs to their sewer lines.

For more information on the Mesa City Code, go to www.mesaaz.gov/clerk/codebook/table_of_contents.aspx.

**Tree Roots**

Tree roots can cause sewer blockages and a major headache for property owners. A crack in a sewer line creates an opening for roots. One way to help avoid root intrusion is to be aware of the location of sewer lines on your property and plant trees more than 10 feet away.

If you suspect a root intrusion in your sewer line, contact a licensed plumber for the best method of addressing the problem.
Cockroach Facts

Cockroaches are highly adaptable insects living anywhere there is a consistent food and water supply. Cockroaches are scavengers and just about anything can serve as a food source. They can go for up to six weeks without a meal. This makes cockroaches hard to control, but without a consistent food or water supply roaches will quickly find another place to inhabit.

Several types of cockroaches prefer warm, dark and humid environments. Many species also like the feeling of something close to their bodies so they seek out cracks and crevices and will squeeze into spaces that provide them the comfort of a tight fit. The American cockroach can squeeze into a space that is as thin as a quarter.

Roaches will also live in accumulated leaf litter, under plants, shrubs, under storage sheds, or in underground boxes and structures.

The cleanliness of an area helps discourage roaches, but even the cleanest and most sanitary environments can experience cockroach sightings. Roaches can enter a building in a number of different ways – under doors, through vents, and through any cracks or openings in a building’s foundation.

Roach Control Tips

- Keep drains covered if not in use for long periods of time.
- Keep drains filled with water to keep P-traps from drying out.
- Attach properly fitted door sweeps, caulk around windows and seal any cracks in a building’s foundation.
- Check for cracks or crevices in baseboards, water pipes, vents or windows that could be potential entryways.
- Store food in tightly sealed containers, including pet food.
- Use a professional exterminator to regularly treat your home or business inside and out.

How the Water Resources Department Can Help

The City of Mesa’s Water Resources Department treats the public sewer manholes for cockroaches. The City accomplishes this by using a latex-based insecticide paint to coat the inside of manhole walls.

Once the insecticide paint is applied, the pesticide is effective at controlling cockroach re-infestation of a manhole for at least two years.

The Roach Hotline (480.644.3550) is an easy way to report infestations or sightings of cockroaches suspected of originating from the City’s sanitary sewer system. When a call is received, the Water Resources Department will respond in one of two ways.

If the manholes have been treated in the last two years, the caller will be notified of such. No field check will be performed. It is not cost effective to allocate city resources to an area that has been treated within the last two years.

If records indicate no pesticide has been applied to manholes near the caller’s address in the last two years a field check will be performed. Nearby sanitary sewer manholes will be treated with insecticide and the caller is informed whether roaches were observed or not.

City of Mesa Roach Hotline:

480.644.3550