

## Common Sources of Odors



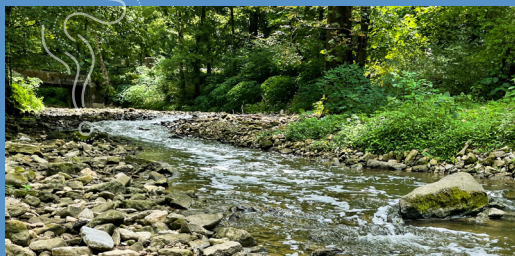
**Water Quality Treatment Centers**



**Pump Stations**



**Catch Basins**



**Creeks, Streams or  
other Bodies of Water**



## With Your Help, We Can Reduce Odors

Let's face it:  
Sewer and wastewater treatment is an "odorous" endeavor; it just comes with the territory. However, while MSD can't stop all the smells that naturally occur when sewage and other materials decompose, we can help manage them – with your partnership.

**If you experience sewer odors, visit  
[LouisvilleMSD.org/odor](https://LouisvilleMSD.org/odor)  
or give us a quick call at  
**502.540.6000**.**

The sooner we hear from you, the better the chance of identifying the source and addressing the problem.



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**clAIRity**  
PROGRAM



## Proactive Odor Control

Every year, MSD invests millions of dollars in odor control measures including chemical, biological and thermal oxidation technologies. The MSD cAIRity Program is designed to reduce with sewer and wastewater treatment odors now and into the future.

Going forward, we will employ even more sophisticated tools to eventually achieve our goal of “no-nuisance” conditions across all of our water quality treatment centers. These tools include scientific identification and quantification of odors and partnering with research firms to evaluate water quality treatment centers.

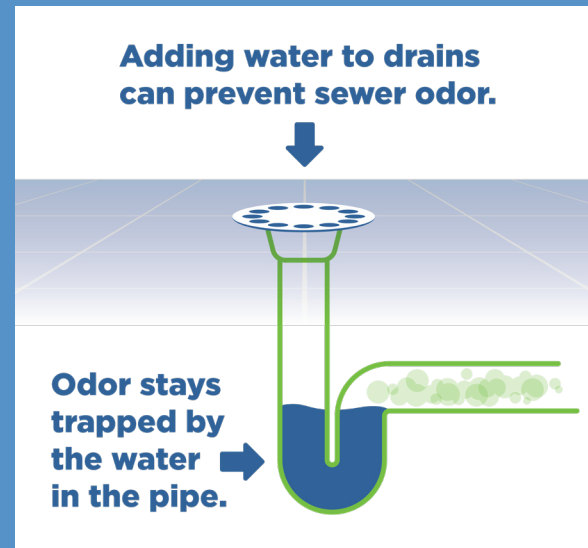


Our multi-year Odor Control Master Plan includes strategic investments to make improvements to the systems that reduce odors caused by sewer and wastewater treatment processes.

## How to Identify Odors INSIDE Your Home or Business

Drains and pipes connected to sewer systems sometimes smell like rotten eggs. Inside drains typically have water traps that keep sewer odor from seeping out. But sometimes – especially if you don’t use them often – toilet, sink, and shower/bath drains can begin to smell.

If you detect an odor coming from a drain, try pouring about three gallons of fresh water down the drain to refill the water trap and block the odor. Perform this maintenance regularly – especially during warmer times of year, when the temperature outside exceeds 70 degrees, and in the winter, when your furnace can decrease the moisture inside.



Also, don't forget to check under your sinks for leaky drain pipes. If you're not comfortable doing this yourself, contact a licensed plumber to get them inspected.

## How to Identify Odors OUTSIDE Your Home

Sewer odor is caused by hydrogen sulfide, which forms when sewage and other materials decompose. Hot, dry weather, along with other factors, contribute to sewer odors.

Here are some common sources of sewer odors outdoors:



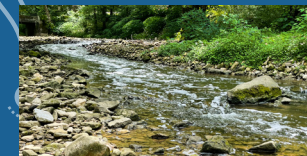
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The majority of catch basins feature water traps, which use water to stop sewer gases from escaping into the air. However, if you smell a sewer odor near a catch basin, water quality treatment center or a nearby body of water, visit [LouisvilleMSD.org/odor](https://LouisvilleMSD.org/odor) or call 502.540.6000 to report the odor, and we will begin working to address your issue immediately.