



The City of Westfield

Wastewater

What is it?

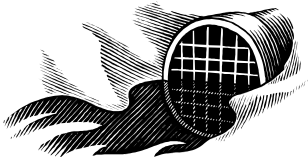
Wastewater is water from the toilet, sink, shower, bathtub and washing machine in your home or business. It flows into the sanitary sewer system for a trip to the City of Westfield Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at 149 Neck Road, where it is cleaned and then returned to the Westfield River. In areas where sewer service is not available, wastewater is treated by your private septic system.

Sanitary Sewers are dedicated to transporting wastewater, or sewage, through a series of pipes and pumping stations, before being processed at the treatment plant.

Septic Systems are individual wastewater treatment systems that use soil to treat wastewater flows, usually from individual homes. They are typically used in rural or large lot settings where centralized wastewater treatment is impractical.

Why is it important?

Improperly managed wastewater can pollute public water supplies and the environment. Blockages in the sanitary sewer and in private septic systems can cause sewage overflows, and repairs/replacement of these systems can be costly.



Fats, Oils, and Grease

Fats, Oil, and Grease (F.O.G) from food preparation can build up in sewer pipes causing blockages, backups, and overflows. Sources of F.O.G. include gravy, sauces, soups, cooking oil, butter, margarine, lard, shortening, milk, cream, mayonnaise, food scraps, and oil/drippings from cooked meats. Wastewater and sewage overflows caused by F.O.G. blockages can harm public welfare, damage personal property, and the environment.

Tips for proper handling of F.O.G and keeping drains clog free:

- Pour fats, oil, and grease into a container to store in the freezer, and then put it in trash after it hardens.
- Use a paper towel to wipe down greasy dishes before washing.
- Put food scraps in compost bin or trash.

Restaurant Best Management Practices for handling F.O.G:

- Clean and maintain grease traps (interceptors) on a regular basis.
- Train employees on the benefits of proper grease disposal.
- Post "No Grease" signs over sinks and dishwashers.
- Recycle waste cooking oil.
- Cover outdoor grease storage containers.
- Routinely clean kitchen exhaust systems.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The City of Westfield Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1972 and treats approximately 4 million gallons of sewage from approximately 18,000 residents and businesses. The sewage is processed through a series of screens, separators, microbial digesters, settling tanks, and clarifiers before being discharged to the Westfield River. The treatment plant is not designed to handle the removal of hazardous chemicals, which can disrupt the treatment process.

Protecting Your Sewer and Wastewater System

- Do not drain or flush fats, oils, and grease.
- Do not drain or flush hazardous materials (paints, chemicals, solvents).
- Do not drain or flush medicine.
- Do not drain or flush food scraps.
- Do not pump clean groundwater from your sump pump into your wastewater system.
- Do not plant trees near your sewer lateral line.
- Inspect and clean your septic system every 3-5 years.

Contact Us

For more information contact:

City of Westfield
Water Resources Department
28 Sackett Street
Westfield, MA 01085
413-572-6243

Or go Online:

<http://www.cityofwestfield.org/index.aspx?nid=230>

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/wastewater/>