

What You Flush or Pour Down Your Drain Affects the Rivers, Lakes, and Coastal Waters in Our Community

Where does the water go after you flush the toilet or drain the sinks in your home?

When the wastewater flushed from your toilet or drained from your household sinks, washing machine, or dishwasher leaves your home, it flows through your community's sanitary sewer system to a wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater from homes, along with wastewater from businesses, industries, and other facilities, is treated by a variety of processes (see inside for more information) to reduce or remove pollutants.

What happens to the treated water when it leaves the wastewater treatment plant?

The treated wastewater is released into local waterways where it's used again for any number of purposes, such as supplying drinking water, irrigating crops, and sustaining aquatic life.



Not Down My Drain!

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| X cleaners | X grease |
| X beauty products | X diapers |
| X medicine | X condoms |
| X auto fluids | X feminine hygiene products |
| X paint | X motor oil |
| X lawn care products | X photographic chemicals |

For more information on the wastewater treatment process, please contact your local health or public works department. Please visit www.epa.gov/owm for more information on wastewater treatment.



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www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/