



Wastewater Treatment Plant

1 Town Landing Road, Bath

207-443-8348

Monday - Thursday: 6am - 3pm

Friday: 6am - 10am



WATCHING WHAT YOU FLUSH

At the Bath Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), the staff operate and maintain 13 pump stations that deliver wastewater from the incoming sewer lines to the WPCF. With over 30 miles of sewer lines running under the City, it is imperative that the equipment can run all day, every day.

With over 40 pumps operating at these pump stations, the best way to keep the equipment running correctly is through preventative maintenance. But despite our best efforts, there are failures and breakdowns. Although we sometimes have failures caused by the occasional rock, rag, bucket lid or wild animal, flushed commercial products like **baby wipes, paper towels and those popular “flushable” wipes are the most common damage-causing materials that enter the system.**



When these products are flushed into your sewer line (if they make it through) they end up traveling to the nearest pump station. During low flows they may just sit in a pipe or low point catching solid materials and grease and eventually creating a “fatberg” that blocks the pipe. At this point, either a high flow situation or a flusher truck will force this clump to a pump station. This can cause the industrial pumps at the stations to clog or break, usually during peak time (high flow) situations, costing the City time and money, and perhaps causing sewage to flow into unwanted places.

The best way to solve this problem is by employing a little preventative maintenance ourselves. **Throw away wipes and paper towels in your trash instead of flushing them.** A simple change like that can make a big difference for the users, the facility and the environment.

Problems with Wipes

Toilets used to average 3.5 gallons per flush. In 1994, federal law limited that to a maximum of 1.6 gallons per flush. This changes the turbulence in sewer lines that is needed to help break down “flushables.”

- The FTC has no set standard on flushability but rather leaves it up to the manufacturer.
- “Flushable” does not mean the product won’t cause damage or end up clogging your sewer lines.
- A wipes clog in South Carolina had to be removed by divers in a wetwell of sewerage

A web search of the term “fatberg” will give you more information on this problem.

Visit us online: CityofBath.com/wwtp

What do you do when you have a sewer problem?

FIRST call Public Works at 207-443-8357

IF OUTSIDE REGULAR WORK HOURS (Mon - Fri, 6:30am - 2:30pm) call 207-443-8201

REMEMBER:

Do not drain/flush

F.O.G.

(Fats, Oils, Grease)



**Cool it.
Can it.
Trash it!**

F.O.G. stands for fats, oils, grease. When cooking, these materials may go down your drain easily but as they run down your lines and cool, they tend to congeal and coat your pipes.

As time goes on, your pipe opening gets smaller and smaller and will eventually clog. Please collect these materials in a separate container and allow them to cool and solidify; then they can be disposed of as solid waste in your trash bin.

Any amount of F.O.G. in the City's lines or pump stations can cause back-ups, clogs and treatment problems. Your efforts to dispose of it properly can help make a big difference!



Around Town

You may see the Camel Vacuum Truck around the City. It is used to help clean some pump station wet wells and storm drain catch basins.

With over 1,700 catch basins to periodically clean of grit and debris, this truck plays an important role in our collection system maintenance.

Ongoing Construction to Address I&I

I&I stands for inflow and infiltration. As sewer lines get older, cracks and tree roots can allow groundwater to enter, resulting in additional costs to treat non-sewerage flows. The City is addressing some of these problem areas and has developed a plan to strategically target the areas of the system that will provide the greatest benefit to residents.

You will likely see construction going on in areas of Bath to remedy some of these problems. Some of the work involves separating catch basins, cleaning and sleeving lines, rehabilitating manholes and upsizing pipes. Please be understanding of any inconveniences as we carry on this necessary work.

