

Where does the water we use in our houses go after we're done with it?

Most of us give very little thought to where the water goes when we flush the toilet, brush our teeth or wash clothes. We should! That water goes on quite a journey from houses to re-use.



After leaving your house, the wastewater goes underground to the sanitary sewer pipes. From there it's pumped to the wastewater treatment plant.

At the treatment plant, the solids are separated from the liquid in the settling pond.

The solids are then passed to the digester. The digester is heated so that it is the same temperature as a human body. During this step, bacteria convert the solids to safe, useable organic matter. Eventually this product is tested, certified and spread on farm fields as fertilizer.



Settling pond



Moving the solids to the digester



Heat pumps



Back-up generator



The liquid goes to a secondary treatment system. Good bacteria convert the effluent to a useable form, which also settles to a solid form and goes to the digester.

Eventually, after weekly testing and certification, the clean water goes to Minneopa Creek.



End of the line: clean water

Good bacteria at work

What can I do to make this process better?

- Do **NOT** flush wipes of any type down the toilet!
- Properly dispose of paints and other chemicals at the Blue Earth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Learn more about proper disposal on their web page.
- Instead of flushing them down the toilet, take any unused drugs to one of the two Blue Earth County drop-off sites at 401 Carver Rd. (BE Co. Justice Center) or 710 So. Front St. (Mankato Public Safety). Learn more about safe drug disposal at the Medicine Collection page on Blue Earth County's website.