

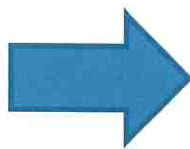
We all use an abundance of clean water everyday but what happens to that water after you flush the toilet or wash your hands? Most homes consist of drains which are connected to a plumbing system within the house. Plumbing systems are connected to what is called a “lateral” which is designed to connect the house or building plumbing to the sanitary sewer main. The City of Cedarburg is responsible for everything in the sanitary sewer main (red Box) while the property owner is responsible for their private lateral all the way up to the point of connection with the sanitary sewer main. Once the dirty water enters the sewer system it is considered wastewater. Sewer mains are designed to flow by gravity to help the wastewater make its way to the wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater is then treated properly and discharged into Cedar Creek as clean water. Any additional information can be found on the City of Cedarburg’s website under the Wastewater Department page.

FOG and Water Softeners

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are a problem for our sewer pipes. Over time, the FOG hardens in the sanitary sewers and even private laterals and cause blockages. These blockages lead to sewer backups and basement backups. Therefore, it is in your best interest to dispose of cooking oils, fats, and grease properly. One way to do this is to drain the oil into a sealable container that can be placed into your regular household trash. You can also wipe off the grease and fat using a paper towel and dispose of that into the trash. Additionally, your garbage disposals do not prevent FOG blockages. So please still discard food solids, oils, and grease properly because garbage disposals do not solve the problem. These proper disposal practices can save the city and you, the homeowner, a lot of unnecessary headaches and money.



High concentrations of chlorides (salt) can negatively affect aquatic life and receiving water bodies therefore we want to limit it as much as possible. The best way to do that is stopping it at its source. Residential water softeners contribute a great deal of chlorides to the wastewater treatment plant. Homeowners can remedy this problem by fine tuning their water softeners to soften their water just as much as needed. On demand water softeners use only as much salt as needed to treat your hard water. The rule of thumb is that if your water softener is 14 years old or older, it should be replaced because it has lost its efficiency over time. This will be a cost savings to the homeowner as well because “on demand” water softeners require less salt usage.



Placing Your Sump Pump Discharge Hose in the Sanitary

One other way to help alleviate overburdening the sanitary system and treatment plant is to remove your sump pump discharge hose from the sanitary. The City of Cedarburg Municipal Code section 9-2-9 sub. (a) states that no person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, ground water, roof runoff, yard drainage, yard fountain, swimming pool or pond overflow into the collection system. Unpolluted water or waste shall be discharged only to storm sewers or to a natural outlet. By doing so, this helps eliminate unwanted clear water down at the treatment plant which in turn places less stress on plant equipment.

