

Domestic Wastewater Treatment

FACTS:

- Domestic wastewater, or sewage, is any liquid or semi-liquid waste material that comes from toilets, baths, kitchens, sinks, etc. in residences, commercial and industrial establishments, institutions, and almost everywhere there are human communities.
- Sewage treatment can be done close to where it is created, for example in septic tanks or in onsite plants, or collected and transported through a network of pipes and pump stations where it is brought to a municipal treatment plant. This is where the process of removing contaminants from the sewage occurs.
- The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Surface Water Quality Division administers the state's wastewater program with the assistance of participating county health departments.
- Twenty-five percent of the estimated 10 million Michigan residents use on-site septic systems with an average of just over two people per household.

Pollution Prevention Month

RESOURCES:

Washtenaw County Public Health

<http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Water Bureau - Septage Program

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3717---,00.html

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Michigan Wastewater Treatment Plants

http://www.deq.state.mi.us/shr/receiving_stations.aspx

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Sewage Haulers

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/shr/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

How Wastewater Treatment Works

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/bastre.pdf>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Septic Systems

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/owm/septic/index.cfm>



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Why Treat Wastewater?

It's a matter of caring for our environment and for our own health. There are a lot of good reasons why keeping our water clean is an important priority:

Fisheries - Clean water is critical to plants and animals that live in water. This is important to the fishing industry, sport fishing enthusiasts, and future generations.

Wildlife Habitats - Our rivers and ocean waters are full of life that depends on shoreline, beaches and marshes. They are critical habitats for hundreds of species of fish and other aquatic life. Migratory water birds use the areas for resting and feeding.

Recreation and Quality of Life - Water is a great playground for us all. The scenic and recreational values of our waters are reasons many people choose to live where they do. Visitors are drawn to water activities such as swimming, fishing, boating and picnicking.

Health Concerns - If it is not properly cleaned, water can carry disease. Since we live, work and play so close to water, harmful bacteria have to be removed to make water safe.

The major aim of wastewater treatment is to remove as much of the suspended solids as possible before the remaining water, called effluent, is discharged back to the environment.

Septic Systems

Did you know that as a homeowner you're responsible for maintaining your septic system? Did you know that maintaining your septic system protects your investment in your home? Did you know that you should periodically inspect your system and pump out your septic tank?

Click this link for the EPA's Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems:

http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/NSFC/pdf/homeowner_guide_long.pdf

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

For more info visit:

<http://environmentalhealth.ewashtenaw.org>

or call 734-222-3800.