



Douglas Nettleton  
Director

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF STONINGTON

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To all sewer users;

As you may or may not know, Stonington, unlike any other community in Connecticut and perhaps all of New England, has three separate treatment facilities. We also have 16 pumping stations. The cost to operate these facilities continues to escalate. The WPCA is working hard to keep costs down to avoid double digit increases to sewer rates which may be required in the future. One way you, our customers, can help is by not discharging material that can't be treated, which can clog and damage equipment both at these pumping stations as well as the processes at the treatment facilities.

The common toilet is not meant to serve as a garbage disposal and although many things are indeed flushable, that doesn't mean they can be treated or that they won't cause damage once they enter the sewer system. A good rule of thumb is the 3P rule; pee, poop, and paper. Anything else shouldn't be going down the toilet but going in your household garbage.

Many of the pumps at the pumping stations, which transfer waste from low lying areas of town to the treatment facility, require constant attention because of clogging due to debris such as disposable/flushable wipes, diapers, rags, plastics and other debris. This can lead to sewer back-ups and unsanitary conditions, as well as damage to the pumping equipment which are both expensive to repair or replace. When the operators are forced to spend all this time unclogging pumps, other important maintenance tasks which need attention must be put on hold.

This is a nationwide problem so serious and costly that the WEF (Water Environment Federation), the largest environmental association in the world considers it to be one of the costliest issues facing modern day sewage collection systems.

I believe here in Stonington we all treasure our environment and once made aware of a problem that could negatively affect it, we will take whatever steps are necessary to protect it.

Help us to help you.

Sincerely,

Douglas Nettleton, Director