

DID YOU KNOW?

- > Over half of the water used in Adelaide every day ends up down the drain.
- > On average, an Adelaidean produces 200 grams of poo and 2 litres of urine each day!
- > On average SA Water recycles about 27,000 million litres of wastewater and makes it available for a whole range of non-drinking purposes.
- > Recycled water is delivered via purple pipes, mains, meters and taps and is always kept separate from drinking water supplies.
- > SA Water has more than 8,000 kilometres of pipelines that carry wastewater – enough to stretch across Australia from east to west and back again!
- > Methane gas generated during wastewater treatment is used to power the Bolivar and Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plants and keep electricity costs down.
- > Organic material from wastewater is collected, treated and used by farmers as soil conditioner/fertiliser.
- > Recycled water is used to grow the bamboo that feeds Wang Wang and Fun! Adelaide Zoo's pandas.



TREATED WELL,
IT'S NOT JUST WASTE.



**24HR FAULTS OR
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1300 883 121**

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or call us on 1300 650 950



WASTEWATER... IT'S EVERYONE'S BUSINESS.



WASTE WATER? NOT IN OUR STATE.



Ever wondered what happens to the water when you pull out a plug, flush the toilet or wash something down the drain? Every year SA Water manages and treats millions of litres of wastewater (sewage) for South Australians and we don't let your water go to waste. We make the most of our valuable natural resources by treating and recycling the water and nutrients in our wastewater.

WASTEWATER IS GENERALLY A MIXTURE OF WASTE FROM HOUSEHOLD TOILETS, SINKS, SHOWERS AND WASHING MACHINES AS WELL AS WASTE GENERATED BY BUSINESSES.

RECYCLED WATER IS USED FOR WATERING PARKS, SPORTING FIELDS AND VEGETABLE CROPS AS WELL AS FLUSHING TOILETS.

TREATED WELL, IT'S NOT JUST WASTE.

WASTEWATER IS MORE THAN 99.95% WATER WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF DISSOLVED OR SUSPENDED SOLID MATTER.

FARMERS USE BIOSOLIDS, A SOLID ORGANIC MATERIAL PRODUCED DURING THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROCESS, AS A SOIL CONDITIONER TO IMPROVE SOIL FERTILITY AND CROP GROWTH.

IT'S OUT OF SIGHT BUT KEEP IT IN MIND!

There are lots of things you can do to make it easier for SA Water to treat water, maintain the wastewater system and protect the environment. Following these tips will help keep the treatment costs down for us, so we can keep the costs down for you.

- > Use **biodegradable and phosphate free detergents** and natural cleaners, like bicarbonate of soda. These are better for the environment than chemical cleaners.
- > Use a **sink strainer** to stop food scraps from clogging drains.
- > Don't put **cooking oils or fats** down the sink – these are more difficult to process and can block wastewater pipes. Instead, wipe your pots and pans with a paper towel and put the paper in the bin. Alternatively, put them in a sealed container and put it in the garbage bin.
- > Don't pour **boiling water** down the sink as this can damage wastewater pipes.
- > Don't put **medicines** down the toilet or drain – these belong in the bin.
- > **Don't use the toilet or the sink as a bin.** It's easy for things to get stuck and block or break pipes. Removing rubbish and repairing pipes increases costs.
- > A high proportion of all sewer blockages are caused by **tree roots** finding their way into our sewer pipes. Jacaranda and quite a few eucalyptus varieties (among many others) should be planted more than 2 metres away from a sewer pipe. Likewise Silver Birch should be planted more than 4 metres away.
- > Don't put **stormwater** or water from your gutters down the sewer as this can lead to very high flows in the wastewater system when it rains and can significantly increase treatment costs and overload the system. Stormwater and water from your gutters should go into the stormwater system.

Following these tips will also help to prevent potentially expensive and messy wastewater mishaps on your property. Please visit www.sawater.com.au for more information.