

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022

*Presented By*



Cé rapport contient des information importantes concernant votre eau potable. Veuillez traduire, ou parlez avec quelqu' un qui peut le comprendre.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



## Message from the Water Superintendent for the Calendar year 2022

Dear Customers:

On behalf of my colleagues and myself at the City of Newburgh Water Department, I am proud to announce that the City of Newburgh continues to deliver millions of gallons of some of the best tap water in the world to more than 38,000 customers each and every day. Here in the City of Newburgh we are fortunate to have a water supply that is well protected and operated by dedicated engineers and highly skilled licensed professionals who have earned admiration among their colleagues throughout the State of New York. The City of Newburgh continuously monitors the water in the distribution system, reservoirs, feeder streams that are potential sources for our drinking water supply. We have made substantial investments to upgrade and rehabilitate our water supply infrastructure and protect the quality of our drinking water, with multi-million-dollar projects currently under design such as full SCADA implementation and Sand Filter Revitalization, complete AMI meter technology, Brown's Pond Spill Way reconstruction and installation of a Brown's Pond Pump House emergency Generator. These large infrastructure advancements by our team illustrate the commitment of our city staff to ensure our drinking water continues to be the highest quality in 2022. City of Newburgh Filtration division staff collected thousands of samples throughout our watershed and reservoir system, and from nearly a 100 street-side sampling stations in every neighborhood across the City, analyzing those samples at our internal laboratory as well as a private laboratory here in the City of Newburgh. We are proud to send the 2022 Water Quality Report and truly look forward to continuing to produce and deliver some of the best drinking water in the world to our customers.

Thank you,

Wayne R. Vradenburgh

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Newburgh's Water Department utilizes the Catskill Aqueduct as its primary supply of source water and Brown's Pond (Silver Stream Reservoir) as a backup supply when the Catskill Aqueduct is unavailable. The Catskill Aqueduct was shut down several times in 2022 for planned maintenance; however, we did not have to change water sources. As the shutdowns were not for extended periods of time, we were able to provide water from our storage tanks.

Before May 2016, the city primarily obtained source water from Washington Lake. Due to the presence of perfluorinated chemicals (PFAS) found in Washington Lake, and in response to more stringent contaminant level goals imposed by the U.S. EPA and NYS DOH, the city discontinued the use of Washington Lake after May 2016. Since that time, the city has relied on the sources listed above. The city is actively working with various local, state, and federal agencies and environmental organizations to identify the sources of contamination affecting Washington Lake and develop strategies for both remediation and future protection.

## Monitoring Information

The first-quarter distribution water quality parameters (required as part of the federal Lead and Copper Rule) for February 2022 sampling were missed due to a clerical error; data for the second, third, and fourth quarters were collected and showed acceptable water quality.

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Mr. Wayne Vradenburgh, Superintendent of Water, at (845) 565-3356. You may also contact the Orange County Department of Health at (845) 291-2331.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include Microbial Contaminants, Inorganic Contaminants, Pesticides and Herbicides, Organic Chemical Contaminants, and Radioactive Contaminants.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the state and the U.S. EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The New York State Department of Health's (NYS DOH) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease-causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



### Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

### Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the second and fourth Monday of each month, except in July and August, when there is only one meeting. Meetings take place at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 83 Broadway, Newburgh. For more information concerning city council meetings, contact the executive office at (845) 569-7301. There is always an open forum to express your opinions and ideas. Visit us online at [www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov](http://www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov).

### Fluoridation of Our Water

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York state that provide drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the CDC, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at an optimal range of 0.8 to 1.2 parts per million (ppm). To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, NYS DOH requires that we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. During the reporting year, monitoring showed fluoride levels in your water were in the optimal range of 0.80 to 1.1 ppm. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2-ppm maximum contaminant level for fluoride.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	DATE SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Chloride</b> (ppm)	250	NA	May 12, 2022	12.0	ND–250	No	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2.2	NA	May 4, 2022	0.63	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth
<b>Haloacetic Acids [mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid]–Stage 1</b> (ppb)	60	NA	July 12, 2022	7.5	2.7–11.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
<b>Nitrate</b> (ppm)	10	10	April 6, 2022	0.25	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Sodium</b> (ppm)	NA <sup>1</sup>	NA	May 12, 2022	11.0	NA	No	Naturally occurring
<b>Total Organic Carbon</b> (removal ratio)	TT <sup>2</sup>	NA	January–December 2022	1.07	1.07–1.14	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Total Trihalomethanes [THMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform]–Stage 2</b> (ppb)	80	NA	July 12, 2022	8.9	3.9–15	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms, formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter
<b>Turbidity [distribution system]</b> (NTU)	TT	NA	April 15, 2022	0.910 <sup>3</sup>	0.05–0.910	No	Soil runoff
<b>Turbidity</b> (NTU)	TT	NA	July 27, 2022	0.130 <sup>4</sup>	0.02–0.130	No	Soil runoff
<b>Turbidity</b> (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	July 27, 2022	99	NA	No	Soil runoff

### Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	AL	MCLG	DATE SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW- HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Copper</b> (ppm)	1.3	1.3	March–June 2022	0.160	ND–0.280	0/62	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Lead</b> (ppb)	15	0	March–June 2022	1.8	ND–21	1/62	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	DATE SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW- HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Dichloroacetic Acid</b> (ppm)	October 18, 2022	0.002	NA	NA

<sup>1</sup>Water containing more than 20 ppm of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 ppm of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

<sup>2</sup>The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

<sup>3</sup>Highest measurement of the monthly average distribution results for the year. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is tested because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

<sup>4</sup>Highest single turbidity measurement for the year. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU and 95% of turbidity samples must be below 0.3 NTU. Treatment technique is dependent on filtration method: conventional, 0.3 NTU; slow sand, 1.0 NTU; diatomaceous earth filtration, 1.0 NTU. During the month indicated in the Date column, we had the fewest measurements meeting the treatment technique for turbidity, but the levels recorded were within the acceptable range and did not constitute a treatment technique violation.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system.

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as possible.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**removal ratio:** A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Nondetected Substances

Following is a list of regulated potential drinking water contaminants that the City of Newburgh tested for but did not detect:

Alachlor	1,2-Dichlorobenzene	Methoxychlor	1,1-Dichloropropane	Pentachlorophenol	1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane
Atrazine	1,3-Dichlorobenzene	Metolachlor	cis-1,3-Dichloropropane	Bromomethane	1,1,1-Trichloroethane
gamma-BHC (Lindane)	1,4-Dichlorobenzene	PCB, Total	trans-1,3-Dichloropropane	n-Butylbenzene	1,1,2-Trichloroethane
Butachlor	Dichlorodifluoromethane	Propachlor	Tetrachloroethane	sec-Butylbenzene	Vinyl chloride
Chlordane	1,1-Dichloroethane	Carbaryl	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	tert-Butylbenzene	Iron
Dieldrin	1,2-Dichloroethane	Aldrin	Trichloroethane	Carbon tetrachloride	Silver
Endrin	Toluene	Benzo(a)pyrene	m-Xylene & p-Xylene	Chlorobenzene	Cadmium
Picloram	1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	bis(2-Ethylexyl)adipate	o-Xylene	Chloroethane	Thallium
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	Trichlorofluoromethane	bis(2-Ethylexyl)phthalate	Methyl tert-butyl ether	Chloromethane	Gross alpha particles
Aidicarb	1,2,3-Trichloropropane	Metribuzin	Beryllium	2-Chlorotoluene	Radium 226
Aidicarb sulfone	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Benzene	Antimony	Ethylbenzene	Radium 228
Aidicarb sulfoxide	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	Bromobenzene	Selenium	Hexachlorobutadiene	Total uranium
Carbofuran	Arsenic	Bromochloromethane	Simazine	Isopropylbenzene	Nickel
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	Chromium	cis-1,2-Dichloroethane	Toxaphene	p-Isopropyltoluene	Nitrate
Methomyl	Zinc	trans-1,2-Dichloroethane	2,4-D	Methylene chloride	1,4-Dioxane
Oxamyl	Heptachlor	1,2-Dichloropropane	Dalapon	n-Propylbenzene	PFOS
4-Chlorotoluene	Heptachlor epoxide	1,3-Dichloropropane	Dicamba	Styrene	PFOA
Dibromomethane	Hexachlorobenzene	2,2-Dichloropropane	Dinoseb	1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	

## Q&A

### What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing 7PC (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

### How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, one gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for three days. Humans can survive without food for one month but can only survive one week without water.

### How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

### How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of treated drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

### How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

### Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40 percent of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.



## Facts and Figures

Our water system serves approximately 29,000 people through 5,675 service connections. We have more than 73 miles of water mains ranging from 4 inches all the way up to 30 inches in diameter. More than 800 fire hydrants and approximately 3,500 gate valves are used to turn off water mains in case of breaks or other emergency situations.

The total water produced in 2022 was approximately 1.2 billion gallons. The daily average of water treated and distributed was 3.04 million gallons, and the highest single day was 4.22 million gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was approximately 649 million gallons. The difference between the water produced and the water delivered can be attributed to several factors including, but not limited to, main flushing, firefighting, leaks, unauthorized use, and other nonmetered uses.

For the last 21 years, the Water Department has conducted a citywide leak detection survey on a yearly basis. Repairing the leaks prevents wasted water and helps our continuing efforts to keep costs down for our customers.

A comprehensive drinking water rate study was completed in 2020. The City of Newburgh water rate for a 5/8 meter is \$8.35 per thousand gallons, with a 6,000-gallon quarterly minimum. Water bills are mailed out quarterly, and unpaid balances are subject to a 10-percent penalty after 30 days.

## Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water.
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions.
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

## How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

After water is withdrawn from the reservoir or aqueduct, it undergoes several chemical and physical processes to ensure that potential contaminants are removed and it is clean and safe for your needs prior to distribution. The city's water filtration plant has the ability to treat approximately 8.85 million gallons of water per day, more than twice our average daily consumption. The plant also employs a series of mechanical and chemical treatments to remove color, odor, and tastes along with organic material, dirt, and particles. The water then passes through a series of sand filters and is polished in our granular activated carbon system. Chlorine is added for disinfection, fluoride is added to promote dental health, and corrosion inhibitors are added to reduce the corrosive effects of water on pipes and plumbing. The water is then pumped to our baffled aboveground contact tank and aboveground storage tanks and into your home or business.

## Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.

The FDA is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water. For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out its website at: <https://goo.gl/Jxb6xG>.

## What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (back-siphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

### NEVER:

- Pour fats, oil, or grease down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

### ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect fat, oil, and grease into a waste container, such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including nonbiodegradable wipes.

