

# WPCA

Water Pollution Control Authority, Middlefield, CT • 860-349-7123

## SEWER SYSTEM USE AND CARE

The proper use of the sewer system and conservation will help to control operating and maintenance costs!

### NEVER PUT THESE PROHIBITED ITEMS DOWN A DRAIN OR TOILET:

- Cat litter
- Cigarettes
- Cloth
- Dental Floss
- Diapers
- Food – peels, bones, etc.
- Glass
- Grease\* – cooking (keep a grease cup/jar/can near your sink)
- Metal
- Oil\* – cooking (keep a grease cup/jar/can near your sink)
- Oil – lubrication, gasoline, etc.
- Q-Tips
- Plastic objects (toys, utensils, etc.)
- Rags
- Sanitary napkins
- Tampons
- Socks
- Wipes – adult, baby, cleaning, disinfecting, facial, hand, “flushable” (*they are not!*)

\* Please do not pour cooking oil/grease down the drain. It is one of the major causes of pump repairs! As it travels down the drain, it cools, then hardens – clogging your house plumbing as well as the sewer system's pumps and/or pipes. Instead, place it in a cup/jar/can container, let it cool, then dispose of it in your regular household trash.

## BESECK LAKE SEWER AREA

The Beseck Lake sewer area is different from most public systems as it relies on pumps to convey all the wastewater. Most other public sewer systems have the benefit of utilizing gravity flow to move most or all of their wastewater. The Beseck Lake sewer area relies on grinder pumps throughout the entire collection system to pump wastewater to the central pump station located at the top of the Mattabeseck Road. From this pump station, the wastewater is pumped to Meriden's sewer collection system.

**The WPCA's largest expense is the maintenance and replacement of grinder pumps.**

Wipes are a major cause of pump failures. All wipes, including wipes as advertised as “flushable”, will clog a pump. Another major cause of pump failures is the pouring of cooking grease/oil down the drain. Please do not pour cooking grease/oil down the drain. These costly repairs are not necessary if everyone does their part to protect the sewer system.

## ALARM / EMERGENCIES

Each grinder pump has its own control box which has a red light and audible alarm. This control box may be located on the outside of your house, in your yard, or on a neighboring property. **If the light and/or alarm sounds, please follow these steps:**

1. Restrict water usage for 30 minutes (the flow into the pump chamber may exceed the pumping capacity).
2. If the red light does not go out, contact: Williamson Pump, **617-884-9200**.
3. If there is no response from Williamson after one hour, and the problem continues, call the WPCA's 24-hour telephone number: **860-982-1465**.

## HARVEST WOOD RD / SUNRISE RIDGE SEWER AREA

### GRINDER PUMP ~ ALARM / EMERGENCIES

The control box is in/on your house which has a red light and audible alarm. **If the light and/or alarm sounds, please follow these steps:**

1. Restrict water usage for 30 minutes (the flow into the pump chamber may exceed the pumping capacity).
2. If the red light does not go out, you can call Williamson Pump, **617-884-9200**, or a contractor of your choice. The WPCA is not responsible for any costs incurred.