



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911
Phone: 502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.919.0325

MSD celebrates World Water Day every day by cleaning wastewater and returning it to local waterways cleaner than the water that is already there...

And with advice about how to keep your plumbing in working order

LOUISVILLE, KY – March 22 is World Water Day, but every day is “World Water Day” at MSD. Our water quality treatment centers receive more than 155 million gallons of water and waste flushed down drains and toilets across our service area 365 days a year. Our job is to treat that wastewater and return it to local waterways and the Ohio River—protecting our environment and the health and safety of all area residents.

The wastewater treatment process is really quite remarkable. The first step is to remove the trash that has made its way into the sewer system, such as plastic items, wipes, dental floss, hair or even small toys. Remember, toilets are not trash cans. Please do not flush anything except human waste and toilet paper.

Next, we put the micro-organisms to work. Solids and liquids separate in tanks. While liquids remain on top, the solids settle to the bottom, where micro-organisms help them decompose. The water goes to the filtration process, while decomposed waste is made into a slow-release fertilizer called Louisville Green or disposed of at a landfill.

The third step is to filter the water. Fine filters remove any remaining inorganic compounds, suspended solids and trace amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus.

The last step zaps the micro-organisms by either UV light or a chemical process. The resulting water is released into a receiving stream cleaner than the water already there. The environmental standards for each watershed are unique, and MSD strives to meet or exceed all water quality regulations.

MSD’s Bowl Patrol—releases ‘Club Flush’

Created just for MSD, the award-winning Bowl Patrol is a cast of cartoon characters—Ms. Pee, Mr. Poo and Toilet Paper—offer advice to educate the public about what is safe to flush and, more importantly, what should not be flushed.

Today we celebrate World Water Day with the release of “Club Flush,” an animated short that looks beyond the velvet rope in your bathroom. So, what are you inviting to your porcelain party? To avoid a serious potty foul and keep your plumbing in working order, make sure it is only the “three Ps.”

Prevent a sewer backup into your home by tossing your wipes, dental floss, hair, paper towels, tissues, and anything that is not one of the “three Ps”—into the trash, not the toilet.

If you experience a sewer backup, make MSD your first call at 502.540.6000. If the problem is in our system, we will fix it at no charge to you.

Background

MSD maintains more than 3,300 miles of sewer lines. There are pumps along the way that push the wastewater to one of our water quality treatment centers. Unfortunately, wipes and other items such as dental floss and hair can clog pumps in the collection system pipes and at the treatment centers. These clogs can cause backups into homes and businesses and are time-consuming and costly to repair.

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About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 670 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Bullitt and Oldham counties. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.