

# Wastewater

## Where Does Wastewater Go?

**Baltimore is an old city and so are its water distribution pipes—many exceeding 100 years in service.** Major capital investment is required to proactively maintain our system, to meet the demands of a growing regional population AND to meet federal regulations mandating system upgrades.

Wastewater is water that has been used in homes, businesses or industry and carries dissolved and suspended solids. That wastewater is sent through a large network of sewer pipes to a treatment plant where contaminants are removed and the water is made clean enough to safely return to our natural waterways.

This system of pipes, like our others, is old. Older, cracked sewer lines allow storm water to infiltrate causing sewage overflows and that is a problem we must fix. As part of its Clean Water Baltimore comprehensive plan, Public Works is on track to complete the necessary sanitary sewer and combined sewer upgrades, as well as overall water infrastructure to improve our system.

### QUICK FACTS

- 💧 We serve 1.6 million customers
- 💧 We treat 250 million gallons of wastewater daily
- 💧 There are 1500 miles of sewer pipes
- 💧 We manage 2 treatment facilities: Back River and Patapsco
- 💧 Current repairs are estimated at \$1 billion dollars

**cleanwater**baltimore  
[www.cleanwaterbaltimore.org](http://www.cleanwaterbaltimore.org)



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