



**NORTH
TEXAS
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT**

Regional Service Through Unity
Meeting our Region's Needs Today and Tomorrow

Detriment of wet wipes on wastewater systems

Morgan Dadgostar, P.E.

August 19, 2026



North Texas Municipal Water District - NTMWD



2.3+ MILLION POPULATION SERVED

2,220 SQUARE MILES SERVED

WATER SERVICES



WATER TREATMENT
PLANTS



LARGE- DIAMETER
WATER TRANSMISSION
PIPELINES



WATER TREATMENT
CAPACITY

WASTEWATER SERVICES



WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANTS



LARGE-DIAMETER
WASTEWATER CONVEYANCE
PIPELINES



WASTEWATER TREATMENT
CAPACITY

SOLID WASTE SERVICES



TRANSFER STATIONS

UP TO 3,395

TONS OF SOLID WASTE
PER DAY



TONS/ YEAR ACCEPTED
AT LANDFILL



Wastewater Services

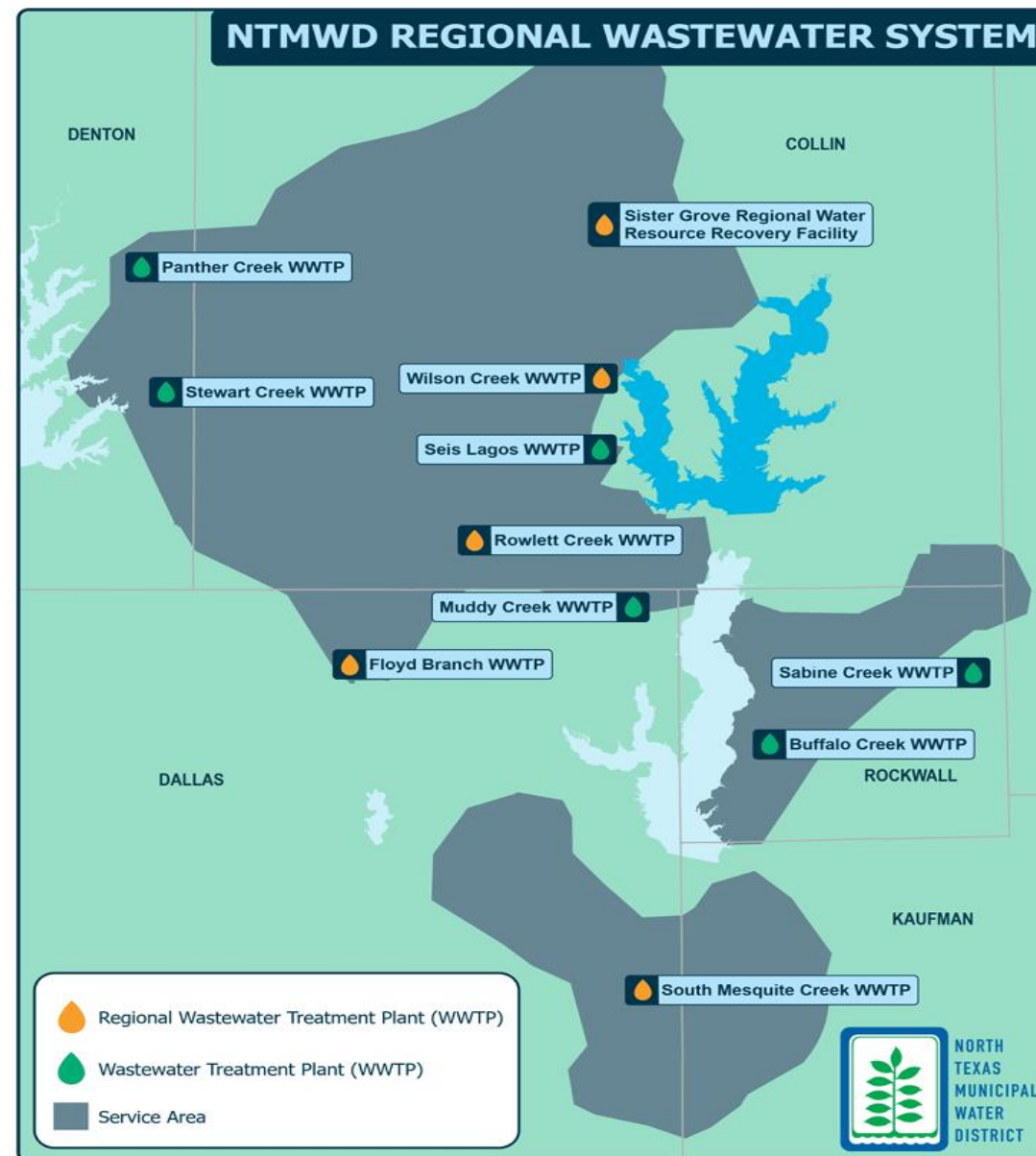
Regional Wastewater System 142 MGD

- Wilson Creek RWWTP 64 MGD
- South Mesquite RWWTP 33 MGD
- Rowlett Creek RWWTP 24 MGD
- Sister Grove RWRRF 16 MGD
- Floyd Branch RWWTP 5 MGD

Sewer System Plants

- Number of Sewer System Plants in Operation: 6
- Total Sewer System Capacity: 39.5 MGD
- Each plant is a separate, independent system and contract

Total Treatment Capacity: 181.5MGD AADF



- Wipes have become very popular- from sanitary cleansing to make-up removal- over the last decade
- The U.S. wet wipes market generates revenue in billions and projected to increase
- There are over 100 single-use wipes products
- Flushable wipes are a small minority of the market - about 10% of wipes sold in the U.S. are designed to be flushed
- Non-flushable wipes make up the other 90% and are made with longer, stronger fibers that are tightly bonded
- Some wipes contain a synthetic polymer that slows the breakdown process and contributes to the problem of microplastic buildup in the waterways and oceans



- For years, the wet wipe aisle has been a labeling free-for-all
- The WIPPES Act (Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act) is moving toward federal adoption, aiming to create a national standard for “Do Not Flush” labeling on non-flushable wipes
- The WIPPES Act has passed the House with strong bipartisan support and is awaiting consideration in the **Senate Committee on Science, Commerce, and Energy**
- Several states (California, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Washington, Oregon) already require “Do Not Flush” labeling on non-flushable wipes



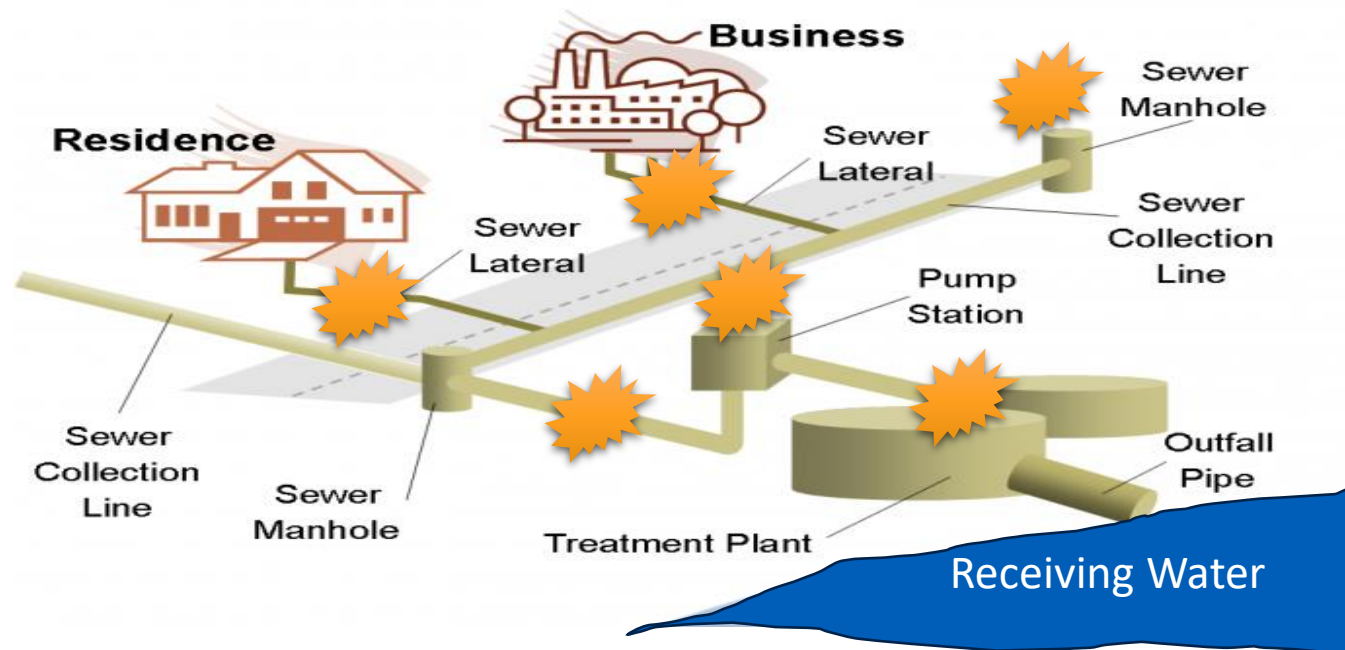
Toilet Paper



“Flushable” Wipes



- Once customers flush wet wipes, the nightmare begins and continues down the pipe
- One household decision becomes a utility problem



Collection System ➡ Lift Station ➡ Treatment Plant

Wipes bind with other debris, forming massive pipe clogs, reducing the pipe capacity and causing overflow



When there is an overflow, not only will the sewage escape into the environment, but the wipes will too

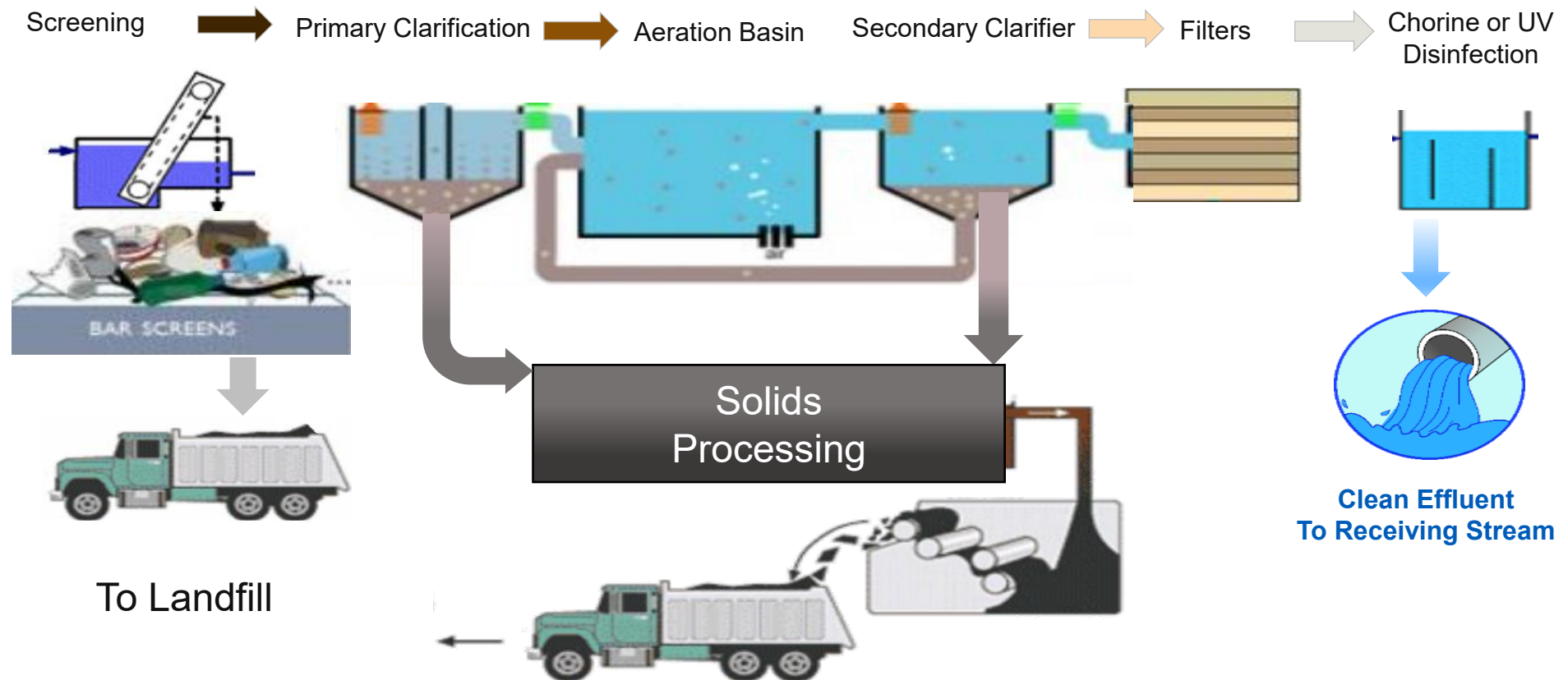


- Wastewater lift stations face repeated emergency callouts and repairs, pump replacements, and labor-intensive cleaning and de-ragging operations
- Clogged lift stations can lead to sewer overflows, backups, and even structural failures

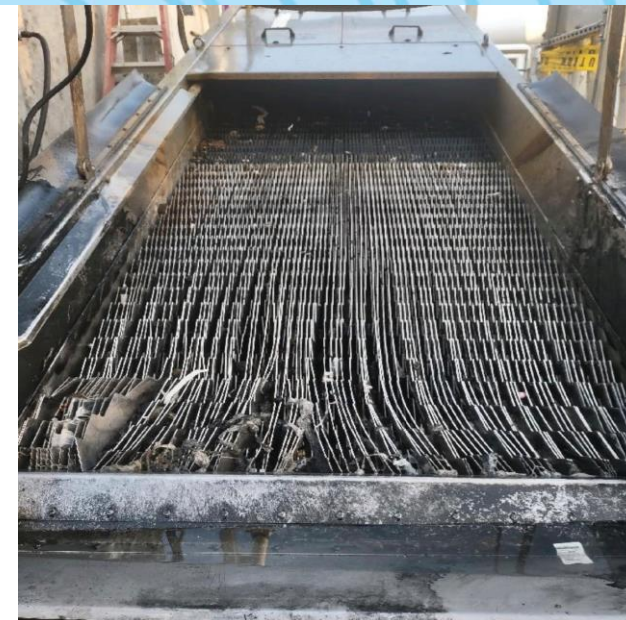
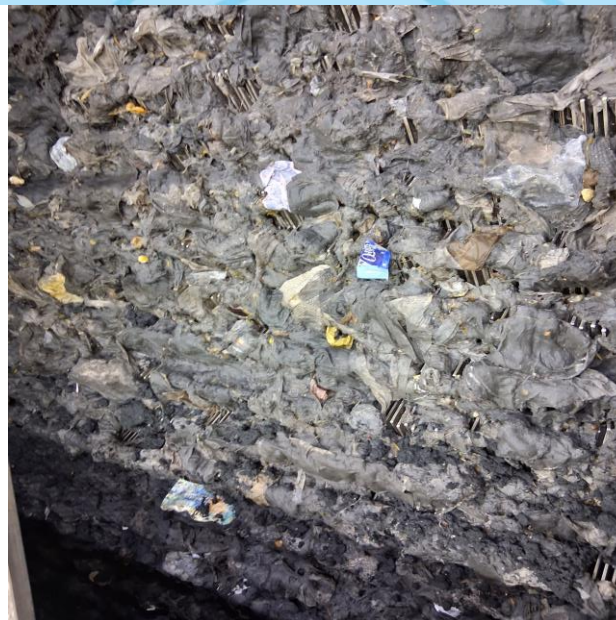




Wastewater Treatment Process



- **Physical blockage:** Wipes retain their shape and can bind with fats, oils, and grease (FOG) to form large, solid masses (“fatbergs”) that jam screens
- **Screen fouling:** Wipes can coat screen surfaces, reduce efficiency, increase screenings volume, and maintenance needs
- **Equipment Damage:** Their fibrous nature allows them to trap other solids, increasing the load on screening equipment causing damage to the screens



- Wipes wrap around impellers, Uneven wrapping creates rotational imbalance
- This imbalance can trip the motor, while the blockage chokes hydraulic capacity, forcing the pump to work harder and accelerating wear on seals, bearings, and the motor
- Non-decomposed wipes remain in sludge, affecting treatment efficiency





Financial Impact

- Wipes cost property owners thousands in repairs
- Utilities waste labor hours removing wipes and repairing broken equipment
- Municipalities have seen about 35 percent increase in repairs and clogged sewer lines
 - New York City spent \$18 million over five years repairing equipment damaged by wipes
 - Wipes costs U.S. utilities up to \$1 billion annually, according to the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.



Mitigation Strategies

- Upgrading screens and pumps designed to handle tough debris
- Utilities spend millions installing specialized grinding equipment designed to shred and break down wipes
- Frequent inspections, cleaning, and repair of screens, pumps, and lift stations
- **Prevention Starts with Education: Public outreach campaigns are key.**



Every flush has a destination, and someone must deal with what we send down the pipe



Regional. Reliable. Everyday.



YOUR MISSION, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE
TO ACCEPT IT...

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

DO NOT FLUSH FLUSHABLE WIPES

THEY'RE IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUR SYSTEM



THIS IS **NOT** GOOD
FOR OUR SYSTEM.

SEWER SYSTEM
STATUS:



COMPROMISED



CLOGS PIPES



CAUSES OVERFLOWS



HARMS OUR ENVIRONMENT



COSTS COMMUNITIES MILLIONS



THE REAL MISSION IS SIMPLE.
TRASH IT. DON'T FLUSH IT.
KEEP OUR PIPES CLEAR. PROTECT OUR PLANET.



GOOD FOR
EARTH.
GOOD FOR OUR
FUTURE.
GOOD FOR OUR
SYSTEM.



Regional. Reliable. Everyday.

Morgan Dadgostar, P.E.

Regional Wastewater System Manager

Office: 469-626-4935

mdadgostar@ntmwd.com

www.NTMWD.com

@NTMWD

