

WIPES, PIPES, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION WORKSHOP



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM



Welcome & Introductions

Wastewater
And
Treatment
Education
Roundtable

Wastewater and Treatment
Education Roundtable (WATER)
Background & Available Resources
Hannah Ordonez, NCTCOG

WATER's mission is to help reduce potential damage to the region's household plumbing systems and wastewater treatment systems as well as to decrease hazards to water quality through educational efforts related to the proper disposal of items such as

- wipes,
- paper towels,
- feminine hygiene and personal care products,
- medicines,
- household hazardous waste, and
- fats, oils, and grease (FOG).



Wastewater And Treatment Education Roundtable

Funding, Budget, and Participation

- Budget is funded through voluntary cost-shares, based on population size or customers served
- FY2026 Participation:
 - 43 city participants, serving a total population of approx. 3.18 million residents
 - Represents approx. 36% of the North Central Texas region
 - 2 special district participants (Trinity River Authority & North Texas Municipal Water District)
 - FY2026 Budget: \$108,210

2024 Population (NCTCOG Estimates)	Cost
1 million+	\$9,000
750,000–999,999	\$8,400
500,000–749,999	\$7,200
350,000–499,999	\$6,000
200,000–349,999	\$4,980
100,000–199,999	\$3,900
50,000–99,999	\$2,580
25,000–49,999	\$1,680
10,000–24,999	\$1,200
Less than 10,000	\$250
Special district partners serving 1 million+	\$9,000
Special district partners serving 500,000–999,999	\$7,800
Special district partners serving 100,000–499,999	\$4,800
Special district partners serving less than 100,000	\$2,580

Note: Special district partners should use wastewater ratepayer population. A special district partner with regional systems is considered one entity.

Work Program Activities

- Administrative Tasks, including hosting quarterly committee meetings
- Coordination of regional training
- Coordination of the regional Defend Your Drains North Texas campaign, including maintenance of website and associated social media accounts
- Advertising (social media, Google ads, etc.)
- Development of PSAs or other deliverables as requested by members
- Coordination of the Annual Holiday Grease Roundup



**HOLIDAY
GREASE
ROUNDUP**



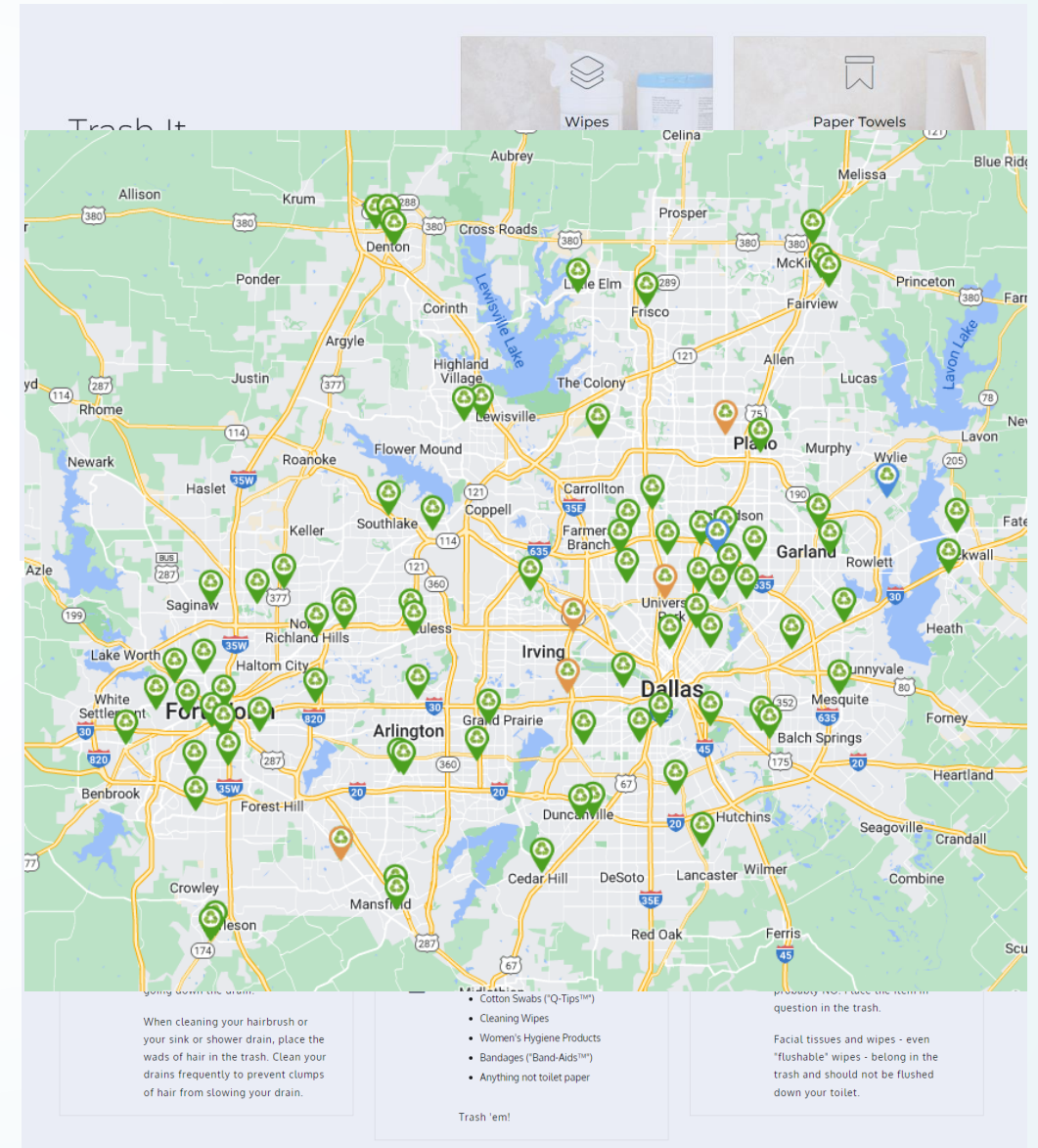
Regional Trainings

- Grease Interceptor Inspector Training
- Field Technician Training
- Industrial Inspections Training
- Paid instructors and municipal volunteer presenters, depending on direction received from members



Defend Your Drains North Texas Website

- Website redesign combined the Cease the Grease North Texas and Defend Your Drains North Texas websites into one
- Includes topic specific information, campaign details, and searchable take back locator map
- Educational videos, public resources, and restaurant information also available



Flyers, Handouts, Social Media Toolkits, and Other Deliverables

Presented by: (Insert Your Name Here)
How You Can Defend
Your Drains!



DEFEND ^{***}YOUR^{***} DRAINS

WIPES BLOCK YOUR DRAINS

DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com



TRASH IT

These items can dog pipes and cause blockages even if labeled "flushable." Throw them in the trash to prevent expensive plumbing repairs.

WIPES
Wipes don't break down when flushed down the toilet.

PAPER TOWELS
Paper towels are designed to be absorbent and strong and so not break down in water, so they will clog your plumbing.

FEMININE HYGIENE
Pads and tampons are very absorbent and don't break down like toilet paper. They commonly cause plumbing issues.

PERSONAL CARE
Everyday personal care products like cotton swabs and dental floss tangle up in your drains and can clog your plumbing.

DISPOSE RESPONSIBLY

These products can damage your pipes and negatively impact the quality of our lakes, rivers, and streams.

FATS, OILS, AND GREASE
Your drains don't love bacon as much as you do. Recycle used cooking oil at a drop-off location.

MEDICATION
The best medicine for your drains is no medicine. Return extra and expired medicines at take-back events.

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS
Household cleaning products may clean your home but large amounts can be dangerous going down the drain. Take leftover products to the hazardous waste.

PAINTS/PESTICIDES
Lawn care paint and pesticides are considered hazardous waste and should be carefully taken to a hazardous waste collection center.

DEFEND YOUR DRAINS

www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com

Only flush the 3 P's:
Pee, Poo and
(toilet) Paper.

Wipes

Wipes clog sewer lines.

Flushing Wipes Causes:

- Blockages in your pipes.
- Equipment damage at your wastewater treatment plant.
- Costly septic system repairs.
- Sanitary sewer overflows.
- Microplastics in local waters.

Wipes are designed not to break down once wet. So, they don't degrade like toilet paper does.

DEFEND YOUR DRAINS

Wastewater And Treatment Education Foundation

For more information visit:
www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com

Trash it.
Don't Flush it.

DEFEND YOUR DRAINS

Wipes
Even if the wipes are labeled "flushable," they are not! Throw them in the trash!

Paper Towels
Paper towels take a long time to dissolve in water and could clog your pipes! Always throw them in the trash!

Feminine Hygiene
Tampons and Pads are designed to absorb and retain liquids. Never flush them in the toilet.

Personal Care
Items such as dental floss, hair, cotton balls or condoms should not be flushed in the toilet. Throw these items in the trash!

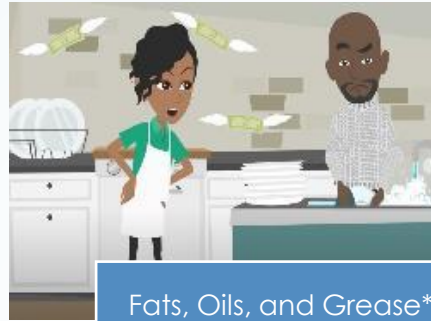
www.defendyourdrains.com

North Central Texas
Council of Governments
Environment & Development

Educational Explainer Videos



Wipes Clog Pipes†



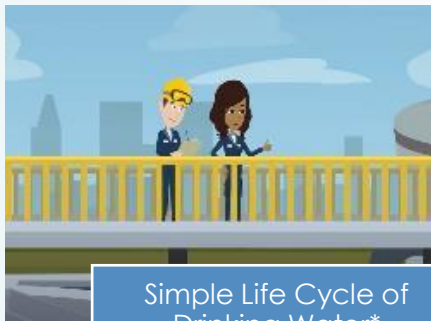
Fats, Oils, and Grease*



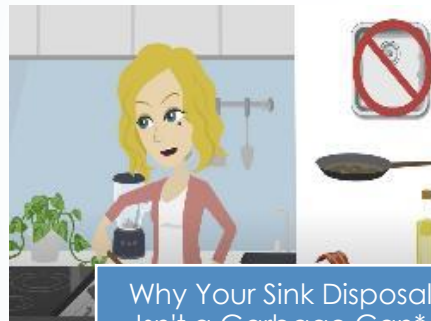
Drug Take Back†



Proper Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste*



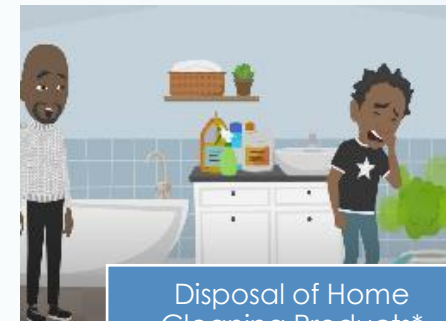
Simple Life Cycle of Drinking Water*



Why Your Sink Disposal Isn't a Garbage Can*



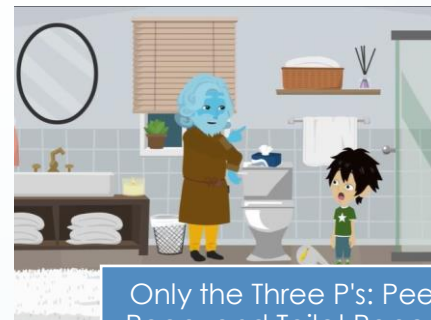
Always Trash Your Personal Care Items*



Disposal of Home Cleaning Products*



Annual Holiday Grease Roundup*



Only the Three P's: Pee, Poop, and Toilet Paper*

Upcoming WATER Activities:

- **FY2027 Work Program** now available, FY2027 Cost Share Invoices will be distributed in October 2026 via email
- **Next WATER Meeting:** October 15, 2026, at 10:00 AM at TRA's CRWS
- **2026 Holiday Grease Roundup** – November 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027

Infrastructure, Costs, and Issues

Morgan Dadgostar, North Texas

Municipal Water District

Wipes Public Education & Outreach Strategies, Successes, and Challenges

Jade Affleck and Parker Chambers,
City of Plano



Booth Games &
Education/Outreach
“Show and Tell”

A light orange, irregularly shaped graphic with a paint-splatter texture. Inside the shape, the text "Wastewater And Treatment Education Roundtable" is written in a dark blue, sans-serif font, with each word on a new line.

Wastewater
And
Treatment
Education
Roundtable



Final Questions & Wrap Up

**Wastewater
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Next WATER Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Trinity River Authority's Central Regional
Wastewater System

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Meeting and
Facility Tour

12:00 – 1:00 PM: Networking Lunch

RSVPs by October 8, 2026; Waivers
returned by October 12, 2026

Must provide photo ID and wear closed-
toe shoes



**RSVP & Meeting
Details**

Contact Information

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[Facebook.com/defenddrainsNTX](https://www.facebook.com/defenddrainsNTX)



[@defenddrainsNTX](https://twitter.com/defenddrainsNTX)



[defenddrainsNTX](https://www.instagram.com/defenddrainsNTX)



[youtube.com/user/nctcoged](https://www.youtube.com/user/nctcoged)



EandD@nctcog.org



nctcog.org/envir



defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com

Wastewater@nctcog.org



Networking Boxed Lunch

Wipes, Pipes, and Public Education
Workshop Survey



**Wastewater
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