

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Maintaining one of our most valuable and necessary resources is very costly. The best way to minimize these costs is to do your part in keeping our sewer system healthy.

1. Remove sump pumps or roof drains/gutters that discharge to the sewer.

Discharge rain water and groundwater over land or to a drywell.

2. DO NOT dispose of oil or grease down your sink or garbage disposal.

Place in watertight container and dispose of in trash.

HELP KEEP BRISTOL BEAUTIFUL

Bristol is a coastal community and is fortunate to have many natural water resources nearby. Recreational water bodies such as Bristol Harbor, Mount Hope Bay, and Narragansett Bay are enjoyed by many residents and visitors alike. However, these resources can be polluted due to sewer blockages and overflows caused by the improper disposal of grease and/or excessive inflow and infiltration being introduced into the Town's sewer system. Please do your part to protect these natural water resources and your surrounding environment.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS...

More information on Infiltration and Inflow and Sanitary Sewer Overflows can be found at the following web link or by contacting the Bristol Water Pollution Control Department.

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/ssoenweb.pdf>

BE AWARE - BECOME INVOLVED

If you think your home or business may contain a sump pump or roof drain connection to the Town's sewer system, or if you would like some additional information on how you can help the Town of Bristol in its effort to reduce SSOs, please contact the Bristol Water Pollution Control Department for assistance.



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Plant Avenue
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A Public Guide for:

Understanding Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)



TOWN OF BRISTOL
Water Pollution Control Department

Bristol, Rhode Island

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS (SSOs)

A Sanitary Sewer Overflow is a discharge of raw sewage from a sewer collection system. A discharge into a basement or from a sewer manhole are examples of SSOs. When a manhole overflows, sewage spills onto Town roads and yards and into surrounding water bodies. SSOs can cause severe health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten wildlife as well as the environment. Most communities with aging sewer systems have SSOs and must work to minimize these harmful and unsightly occurrences.



CAUSES OF SSOs

Two major causes of SSOs are:

1. Buildup of fats, oils, and grease, or (“**FOG**”) along the sewer pipe walls and in sewer manholes.
2. Excessive rain water and groundwater entering the sewer known as Infiltration & Inflow (“**I/I**”).

FATS, OILS, & GREASE (FOG)

Nearly half of all sewer blockages are the result of FOG.



As per the Town’s Sewer Use Ordinance, grease removal systems must be installed at all connections to the Town’s sewer from users conducting food preparation or food processing operations such as:

- Restaurants
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Other establishments which regularly discharge grease to the sewer

Grease removal equipment is not required for private living quarters but residents can help improve the condition by collecting and disposing of grease with the household trash. Grease should **NOT** be poured down the sink or in the toilet.

DISPOSABLE WIPES

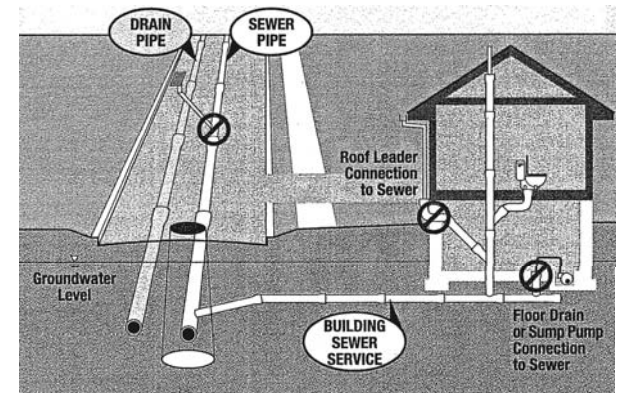
Household cleaning wipes should **NOT** be flushed down the toilet or drain but should be disposed of with the trash. Household cleaning wipes do not “break down” like toilet paper and can cause clogging of pipes and damage pumping equipment.

INFILTRATION & INFLOW (I/I)

I/I is responsible for the majority of all SSOs in Bristol. I/I comes from cracks in sewer pipes and manholes as well as through inadmissible connections to the sewer including:

- Sump pump discharges
- Roof drains
- Yard drains
- Window well drains
- Storm drain catch basins

The excess “clean” water, which sewers are not designed to carry, causes the sewer system to overflow.



BRISTOL’S EFFORT AGAINST THE CAUSES OF SSOs

Bristol is working vigorously to protect its residents from the harmful impacts of SSOs. The Town continues to invest in sewer system rehabilitation, replacement, and upgrades, in addition to inflow investigation and removal. These efforts are intended to help reduce the number of SSOs in Bristol.