

Water in Northampton

Where does it go when it rains?

1. Rain soaks into the ground to help the forests and gardens grow.
2. Rain also runs off of impervious surfaces (a big word for things that cannot absorb water like roofs, roads and driveways) into grates or catch basins. This rain, also called storm water, flows through pipes underground and eventually flows into brooks that flow into the Connecticut River.



Photo of the top of a catch basin.

3. Most of the storm water in Northampton ends up in the Mill River and Connecticut River.
4. Many birds, animals and insects live in the Connecticut River and many humans swim and play in the river; therefore, it is very important that only storm water goes into grates or drains and not trash or chemicals that may pollute the water.

How does water get to our faucets?

1. Most of the water for the City of Northampton comes from three reservoirs. Reservoirs are large man-made lakes that hold water.



This is a photo of Ryan Reservoir - one of the City's largest reservoirs.



This is Mountain Street Reservoir

2. The water travels from these reservoirs in large underground pipes called water mains to the Northampton Water Treatment Plant where the water is filtered and treated for humans to use for drinking, washing, cooking, etc...



This is a photo of the Northampton Water Treatment Plant.

3. After the water leaves the water treatment plant, it travels in the water main and eventually into smaller pipes called service connections which travel from the main into smaller pipes within your house that are connected to your faucet.
4. As all living beings need water to survive, be careful not to waste water.

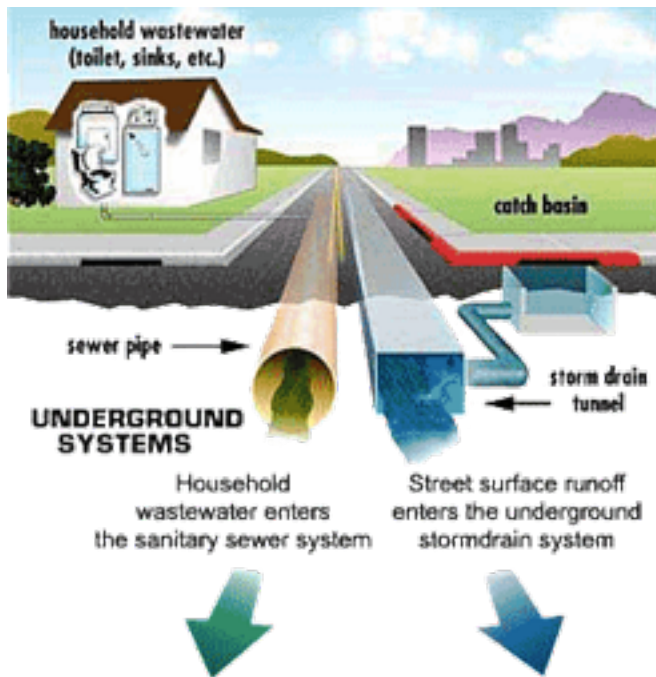
Where does it go when it goes down the drain inside our houses?

1. The dirty water or wastewater from your house that comes from the drains in your shower, tubs and sinks; your washing machine; and your toilet goes into another smaller pipe that connects to a wastewater service connection which travels from your house to a large sewer main or an underground pipe that carries wastewater.
2. Wastewater in the sewer main travels to the Northampton Wastewater Treatment Plant where the water is cleaned (contaminants are removed) so that the water can be returned to the Connecticut River.



This is a photo of the Northampton Wastewater Treatment Facility.

3. Remember used water should only go down the drain inside your house. Never pour chemicals or medicines down the drain.



Separate Sanitary Sewer System - How It Works

