

Inspiration

'Flush out the Fatbergs'

Background Information

What is hidden in the sewers beneath your feet? Our flushing habits are having a monstrous impact on the network of pipes used to take away our wastewater. Fatbergs are lurking, congealing and growing fast under our towns and cities across Northern Ireland and we need your help to stop this stinky menace!!

Only you can help us catch and prevent these gross, smelly fatbergs from clogging up our sewers.

Can you draw a 'WANTED' poster for the monstrous fatbergs. Design your own Fatberg monster, wanted for crimes against the sewers, telling people who they are, how they were formed and how we can prevent them causing mayhem in our sewage systems.

Take a picture of your creation and email it to education@niwater.com to be in with the chance to win a prize! Don't forget to include your name and age.

What is a fatberg?

Sewers are designed only for water and the 3p's: pee, poo and toilet paper but increasingly they are used as rubbish bins. The rubbish we dispose of down our sinks and toilets is creating monster sized blockages in our sewers we call FATBERGS.

Fatbergs are congealed blobs in the sewers formed by a combination of 'flushable' non-biodegradable rubbish such as wet wipes and congealed grease and cooking fat.

When grease and fat are poured into the sewers they stick to the side of the pipes, wipes and other rubbish flushed down the toilet stick to this and it builds up layer upon layer of gunk like a slimy snowball effect!

Problems Caused by Fatbergs

As more and more unflushables enter the sewers the more the fatberg grows until eventually it creates a major blockage!

If the sewage can't reach our wastewater treatment works to clean it, it causes the sewers to overflow causing homes and streets to flood with sewage.

How to Prevent a Fatberg

- Don't feed the fatberg:
- Remember the 3 p's Pee, Poo and toilet Paper, everything else will block the pipes.
- Many wipes are labelled flushable but they won't break down. They make their way down the toilet but will eventually clog further along the pipes.
- Don't pour fat and grease down the sink. Keep a small container handy to pour fat and grease into before safely disposing in the bin.

How a Fatberg is Removed

Even though fatbergs are made of soft materials they are as tough as rocks! When trying to remove them it's like trying to break concrete. Not only is it very expensive to remove but it's extremely dangerous for the sewer workers, who have to wear breathing apparatus and protective suits because of the dangerous gases released by the fatbergs.

Famous Fatbergs

- Some fatbergs are more than 800 feet long and weigh more than 4 hump backed whales!!
- 2017 a monster fatberg formed under Whitechapel in London. It was nicknamed Fatty McFatberg and weighed 130 tonnes - the same as 11 double decker buses.
- The museum of London put the 820 foot long (longer than 2 football pitches) fatberg on display
- It took 8 workers dressed in gas masks and protective suits to unblock the London Fatberg. They had to use high pressure hoses and pick axes to break the fatberg and suck up the pieces into tankers.

- A fatberg removed from the English seaside town of Sidmouth was as long as a Jumbo Jet.