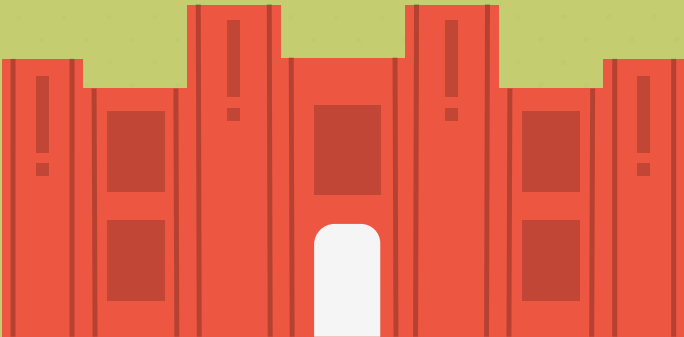


SEND DIRTY WATER TO BE CLEANED



The MWRD is the wastewater treatment and stormwater management agency for the City of Chicago and 128 suburban communities throughout Cook County.

If you live within the MWRD service area, the water that goes down your toilet, sinks and drains eventually comes to us to be cleaned.



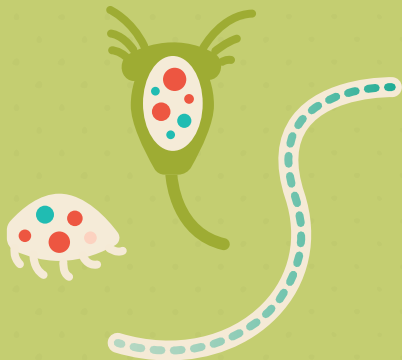
The MWRD cleans the water and recovers resources using a combination of physical, biological, and sometimes chemical treatment processes.



HI, MY NAME IS GINELLA.
As a microbiologist at the MWRD, I conduct water quality monitoring and research to support wastewater treatment operations and protect the health of the public.



**Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago**



MICROBES
Microorganisms break down (eat) suspended solids.

All of this wastewater and stormwater flows through local municipal sewers into our interceptors before flowing to water reclamation plants, where it's cleaned.

CONGRATULATIONS!
**YOU MADE IT TO THE
LOCAL WATERWAYS!**

The MWRD owns and operates seven water reclamation plants that treat wastewater from homes and businesses throughout our 882.1-square-mile service area, as well as stormwater from combined sewer communities.



The MWRD prides itself on protecting the waterways and improving the quality of water in its service area.

The MWRD controls 76.1 miles of navigable waterways, which are part of the inland waterway system connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico.

RECOVERING RESOURCES
We work every day to mitigate flooding and convert wastewater into valuable resources like clean water, phosphorus, biosolids and natural gas.



HOW IS DIRTY WATER CLEANED?



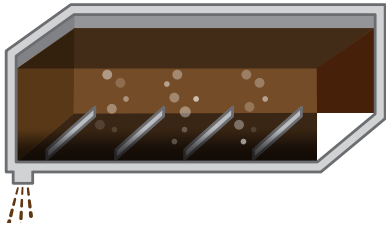
**Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago**



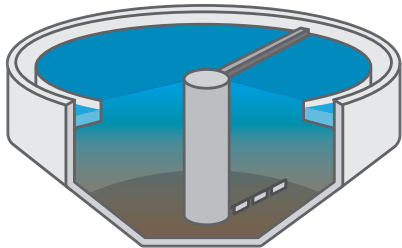
6. DISINFECTION
During disinfection, the MWRD uses a variety of measures at different WRPs to add a final layer of treatment before water is released into neighboring waterways. The DNA of microbes are deactivated using a chlorination/de-chlorination application process or a light (UV) disinfection system that prevents them from reproducing or growing. These disinfection processes drastically improve the quality of the water produced by the MWRD.



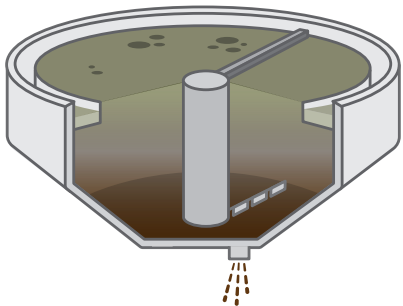
1. COARSE SCREEN
Wastewater entering the WRP passes through coarse screens that filter large objects ranging from trash to tree limbs to possums.



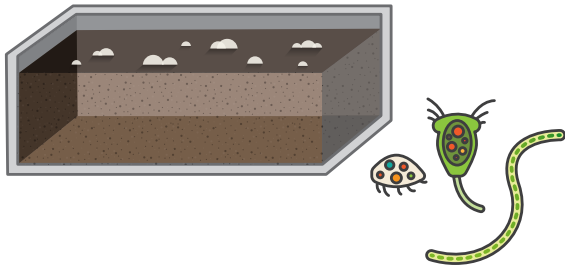
2. AERATED GRIT TANK
Next, pumps move water to aerated grit tanks. The air bubbles keep lighter materials suspended, while grit, sand and gravel sink to the bottom. A conveyor scrapes the larger material on the bottom into a drain. It is then taken to a landfill.



5. FINAL SETTLING TANK
In the final settling tanks, solids sink to the bottom where revolving blades scrape them into a drain. The water at the top of the tank is now clean.



3. PRIMARY TREATMENT
The water flows into primary settling tanks. A revolving conveyor with slats skims off the floating fats and oils while solids settle to bottom. The floating fats and oils are moved to a drain and then they are sent to a landfill.



4. SECONDARY TREATMENT
Water enters the aeration tanks with pumped, filtered air and a population of microorganisms that break down the remaining suspended solids.

O'BRIEN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT
3500 Howard St, Skokie, IL 60076