Pennsylvania Septage Management Association

November 2021

CONTENTS

PSMA's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's citizens and our industry through sound management, proper maintenance and environmentally conscious disposal of wastewater.

President's Message

Happy Fall Everyone! The following are a list of things your PSMA Board of Directors has been diligently working towards either finding solutions for or attempting to head these issues in the right direction for our membership. For the past four years the Pa general permits, PA7, 8 and 9, have been extended and the PA DEP is finally ready to draft the proposed new permits. The PSMA board has been asked to join a stakeholder group that is addressing the issues that the new permits are raising for all individuals who apply for and use the general permits in Pennsylvania to land apply either biosolids, class A or B, or septage in PA.

Ned Lang
PSMA President

The proposed changes including the monitoring of PFAS and PFOS pollutants in the BioSolids.

These pollutants are a new hot button throughout the country, and Maine actually had the DEP stop all land application of all biosolids and septage because of these pollutants and the lack of knowledge about their impact on both the soils and exposure to humans as a result of land application of biosolids containing these products. PFAS and PFOS are very prevalent in our society. They are found in lipstick, makeup, clothing we wear, a lot of the food packaging materials that we find ourselves using such as pizza boxes and the bags that contain popcorn, so the oil doesn't soak through.

Another change is the principal pollutant they will be monitoring will no longer be nitrogen, but phosphorous. The DEP is using a phosphorous index which we are studying to ensure that the phosphorous index measures the total phosphorous and principally the organic phosphorous in soil which will allow much more farmland to be land applied on, based upon the organic phosphorous in the soil. We hope to have the new regulations include the same.

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Ned Lang, *PSMA President*

Save The Date!

Dec 7-8-29, 2021 - PSMA 101 Basic Inspector Certification Course
Holiday Inn Hotel, Lansdale, PA

Dec 31-Feb 1, 2022 - Installation of Onsite Systems Training Course
Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, PA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont)

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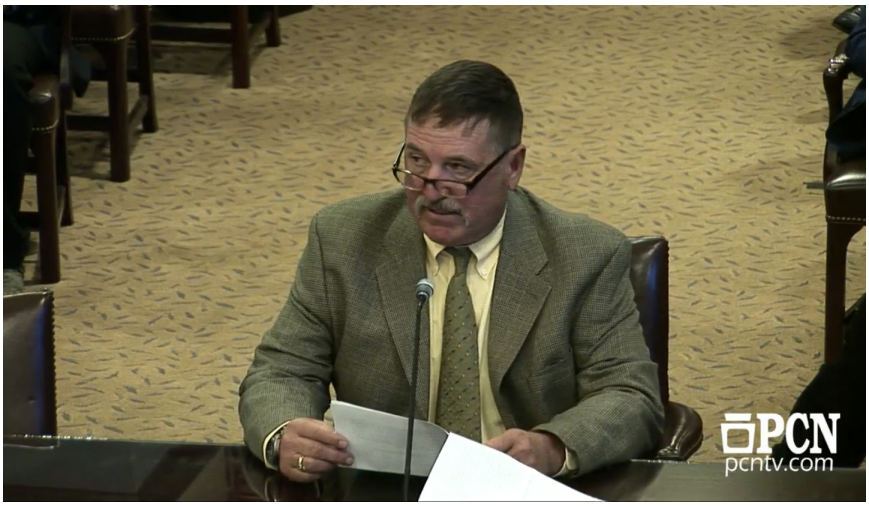
The DEP is also proposing that all wastewater treatment plants that accept outside waste such as septage and or FOG (fats, oils, grease) which are not introduced at the headworks of the plant, the sludge produced at these wastewater treatment plants cannot be considered either Class A or Class B BioSolids, and therefore cannot be utilized through the PA general permits. This is a very big issue as many of the wastewater treatment plants that accept septage from our membership may no longer accept septage because they will have a very difficult time finding a home for the sludges that the wastewater treatment plants produce, other than at a landfill.

There are other changes proposed in the new Pa general permits, however these are the main issues that the PSMA finds with the proposed new guidelines for land application general permits.

Bruce Fox and I recently testified at a legislative hearing about these issues on October 25th in Harrisburg, in front of the PA Environmental & Energy committee which is chaired by Representative Metcalfe. I have testified before Representative Metcalfe before and have found him to be very fair, highly sensitive to business interests and the overall health and economy of Pennsylvania and is truly a friend to all Pennsylvanians, especially the business community.



If you look at the current membership of PSMA, we are presently at 15-year high of 264 members from the records I have seen. I want to thank everyone for continuing their membership in this great association, which is working hard for each and every member, and is addressing the issues that are presented to us.

Novak Strategic Advisors and principally Angela Leopold have been doing an absolutely stellar job for the PSMA, keeping the board of directors up to date and apprised of all the pertinent government affairs happenings that can affect our membership, either positively or negatively.

Recently Governor Wolf has proposed that the State of Pennsylvania join a coalition of other states called the RGGI Initiative. The PSMA executive board believes that this RGGI coalition will be very harmful and detrimental to the people and business of the State of Pennsylvania as it is nothing more than a carbon tax on all fossil fuels that all of us use throughout PA. It is an attempt by the Wolf administration to heavily tax all fossil fuels in order to make the renewables look more economically viable. The reality is that renewables are not nearly economically viable, or sustainable as they are in their infancy. I would ask that you call either me or Angela Leopold personally, to explain the detriment that this RGGI initiative will have towards all Pennsylvanians, so that you can contact your local legislator to push for them to fight back against the Governor's initiative.

I would also like to invite everybody and please put on your calendar our upcoming convention, which will be held face to face again, thankfully. The convention will be held January 31st through February 1st, 2022, at the Red Lion Inn in Harrisburg, PA. Jeff Rachlin and the conference committee have worked tirelessly to bring this convention back to life and to make it truly an inspiring and meaningful event for all attendees. Please go to the PSMA website for more information on the conference.

Hope to see you there!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PSMA MONITORS INTEREST IN BIOSOLIDS

The PA Septage Management Association is actively monitoring renewed legislative interest in the regulation of biosolids. The specific issue was a decision by the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee to hold a hearing on biosolids permit approval process from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

PSMA offered testimony to the Committee and will submit technical comments on any DEP attempt to re-write standards for biosolids application permit approval. The notice of the hearing did take stakeholders by surprise although the DEP Agricultural Advisory Committee had discussed the matter. DEP's Sewage Advisory Committee (SAC) of which PSMA is a member was not involved in this internal agency discussion.

Application of biosolids is a normal farming practice. It is a constructive environmental alternative to conventional commercial fertilizer. Studies have shown biosolid benefits. In June 2017, the PA Budget and Finance Committee did a report in response to a legislative directive. It reported that in December 2015 the PA Supreme Court agreed with a lower court ruling that the use of biosolids as fertilizer is a "normal agricultural practice." The report also stated that in PA, about 38 percent of biosolids are land-applied. That means that over one-third of biosolids are recycled – again, an environmental benefit. (46% go into landfills and 15% are incinerated.)

Will any of these unknown proposed changes affect PA's Right to Farm law which states that standard farming practices (such as approved application of biosolids) must not be hindered?

Regulatory oversight and a science-based permit decision are essential. Any change in DEP permitting must follow the science and not unsubstantiated cries for no biosolids from well-intentioned but misinformed advocates to the contrary.

Along with other stakeholder groups, PSMA has been invited to provide technical input to a work group formed by DEP to evaluate the biosolids permit conditions. Bruce Fox and Ned Lang have been sharing their insights on the land application of biosolids.

Angela Leopold
Novak Strategic Advisors LLC
PSMA Lobbyist

SENATE BILL 776

PSMA is monitoring legislation by Sen. Daniel Laughlin that would amend the Sewage Facilities Act to allow for garage floor drains to be discharged into onlot septic systems.

The legislation seeks to fix a conflict between the state building code and onsite sewage regulation. However, PSMA is concerned that such discharges from a garage drain into a septic system would ultimately damage the system and compromise groundwater.

SB776 has been voted out the Senate Environmental & Energy Resources Committee and is scheduled to be taken up by the full Senate. The legislation would still need to be considered by the House and signed by the Governor before it becomes law.

2,700-YEAR OLD LUXURY TOILET FOUND

A luxury 2,700-year-old private toilet was discovered in Jerusalem, and researchers say it may have come complete with air fresheners

A "very rare" 2,700-year-old private toilet was discovered during an archaeological excavation in Jerusalem, according to the Israel Antiquities Authority.

The toilet cubicle, carved into limestone, was discovered by Israeli archaeologists in the Armon HaNetziv neighborhood of East Jerusalem, near the site where the Hebrew Bible says Abraham almost sacrificed his son Isaac, The Times of Israel reported.

Researchers say that the amenity would have been a luxury at the time. "A private toilet cubicle was very rare in antiquity, and only a few were found to date, most of them in the City of David," said Yaakov Billig, director of the Israel Antiquities Authority excavation, according to The Times of Israel. "In fact, only the rich could afford toilets."

Billig said that an ancient "toilet seat," carved into stone, was a "very rare find."

Ha'aretz reported that, underneath the toilet seat, there was a septic tank. It wasn't connected to a sewage system. The media outlet said it would have most likely been periodically emptied by servants.

It's also possible that 30 to 40 bowls found in the vicinity were ancient air fresheners, according to the Smithsonian Magazine. The vessels may have held aromatic oils or incense, the media outlet said.

This photo provided by Israel Antiquities Authority shows a rare ancient toilet in Jerusalem dating back more than 2,700 years. Yoli Schwartz/Israel Antiquities Authority via AP

Archaeologists have previously discovered several other toilets in Jerusalem, including one found in 2016, which may have been used to intentionally desecrate a pagan shrine.

Source:
Business Insider

NEW OSHA RULES TO ADDRESS HEAT EXPOSURE

US Department of Labor announces enhanced, expanded measures to protect workers from hazards of extreme heat, indoors and out

To combat the hazards associated with extreme heat exposure – both indoors and outdoors – the White House today announced enhanced and expanded efforts the U.S. Department of Labor is taking to address heat-related illnesses.

As part of the Biden-Harris administration's interagency effort and commitment to workplace safety, climate resilience, and environmental justice, the department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is initiating enhanced measures to protect workers better in hot environments and reduce the dangers of exposure to ambient heat.

While heat illness is largely preventable, and commonly under-reported, thousands of workers are sickened each year by workplace heat exposure. Despite widespread under-reporting, 43 workers died from heat illness in 2019, and at least 2,410 others suffered serious injuries and illnesses. Increasing heat precipitated by climate change can cause lost productivity and work hours resulting in large wage losses for workers. The Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center estimates the economic loss from heat to be at least $100 billion annually – a number that could double by 2030 and quintuple by 2050 under a higher emissions scenario.

To emphasize its concern and take necessary action, OSHA is implementing an enforcement initiative on heat-related hazards, developing a National Emphasis Program on heat inspections, and launching a rulemaking process to develop a workplace heat standard. In addition, the agency is forming a National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Work Group to provide better understanding of challenges and to identify and share best practices to protect workers. "Throughout the nation, millions of workers face serious hazards from high temperatures both outdoors and indoors. Amid changing climate, the growing frequency and intensity of extreme heat events is increasing the dangers workers face," said U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Marty Walsh. "As Secretary of Labor, my priority is to make sure we are taking appropriate action to keep workers healthy and safe on the job."

"The newly established initiative prioritizes heat related interventions and inspections of work activities on days when the heat index exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit."

OSHA implemented an intervention and enforcement initiative recently to prevent and protect workers from heat-related illnesses and deaths while they are working in hazardous hot environments. The newly established initiative prioritizes heat-related interventions and inspections of work activities on days when the heat index exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

"While agricultural and construction workers often come to mind first when thinking about workers most exposed to heat hazards, without proper safety actions, sun protection and climate-control, intense heat can be harmful to a wide variety of workers indoors or outdoors and during any season," said Acting Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Jim Frederick.

The OSHA initiative applies to indoor and outdoor worksites in general industry, construction, agriculture and maritime where potential heat-related hazards

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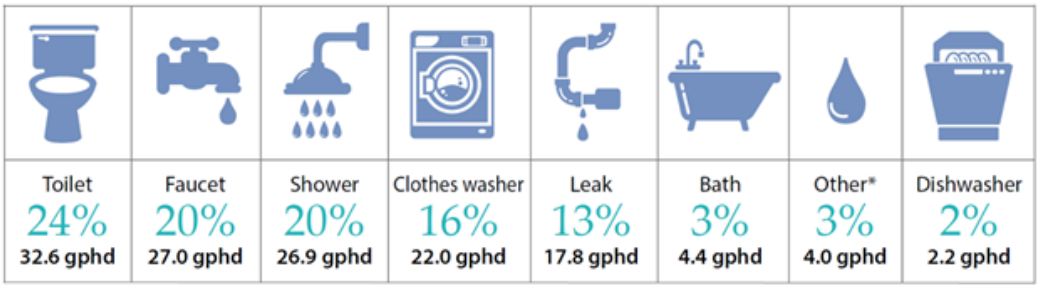
RESIDENTIAL END USES OF WATER

The Water Research Foundation has published a report entitled "Residential End Uses of Water, Version 2". Excerpts from the report's Executive Summary are found below. To view the full report and for more information about the project, visit www.waterrf.org.

It is essential for water and wastewater industry service providers to have a detailed understanding of how water is used in residential settings. While water use in homes was studied as early as the 1940s, interest intensified after the Energy Policy Act of 1992, which sought to improve energy and water efficiency. This Act established maximum flow rates for new residential toilets, showerheads, and faucets. Later federal regulations included clothes washers. Water efficiency in homes has also been encouraged by programs like EPA's WaterSense.

Figure 1. Indoor household use by fixture



* The "Other" category includes evaporative cooling, humidification, water softening, and other uncategorized indoor uses.

Until now, the most significant residential end use study conducted in North America was the Water Research Foundation's 1999 report, Residential End Uses of Water (REU1999). WRF's newest report, Residential End Uses of Water, Version 2 (REU2016), provides an updated and expanded assessment of water use. It includes more varied study site locations, hot water usage data, more detailed landscape analysis, and additional water rate analysis. The new study identifies variations in water use by each fixture or appliance, providing detailed information and data on changes since the REU1999 study. Looking to the future, the study's research evaluates conservation potential, and includes predictive models to forecast residential demand.

The decline in water use across the residential sector, even as populations increase, poses new challenges for water utilities. Information on single family home water consumption is significant for utility rate and revenue projections, capital planning (water supply and infrastructure needs), daily operations to provide water, water efficiency programs, and more.

Toilet flushing is the largest indoor use of water in single-family homes, followed by faucets, showers, clothes washers, leaks, bathtubs, other/miscellaneous, and dishwashers (see Report Figure 1). Mandated reductions in toilet flush and clothes washer volumes and shower and faucet flow rates have contributed to the declines in residential water use. REU2016 showed indoor water use at 138 gallons per household per day (gphd). A sample of new homes built according to EPA's WaterSense New Home Specification Version 1.0 had an average daily per household water use of 110 gphd.

Residential indoor water use in single-family homes has decreased (see Report Figure 4 and Figure 5). The average per household daily water use has decreased 22 percent, from 177 gphd (REU1999) to 138 gphd (REU2016). Per capita average water use has decreased 15 percent, from 69.3 gpcd (REU1999) to 58.6 gpcd (REU2016). In REU1999, a household averaged 2.77 people and in REU2016, a household averaged 2.65 people. The improved water efficiency of clothes washers and toilets accounts for most of the decreases in indoor use.

The biggest reduction in per capita water use between the two studies was measured in the clothes washer category. Starting in the mid-1990s, efficiency improvements dramatically reduced water usage, from an average volume of 41 gallons per load (REU1999) to 31 gpl (REU2016). Per capita use decreased 36 percent, from 15.0 gpcd (REU1999) to 9.6 gpcd (REU2016).
The flush volume of toilets has decreased 29 percent, from 3.65 gallons per flush (REU1999) to 2.6 gpf (REU2016). Toilet flushing frequency has remained the

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RESIDENTIAL WATER (cont.)

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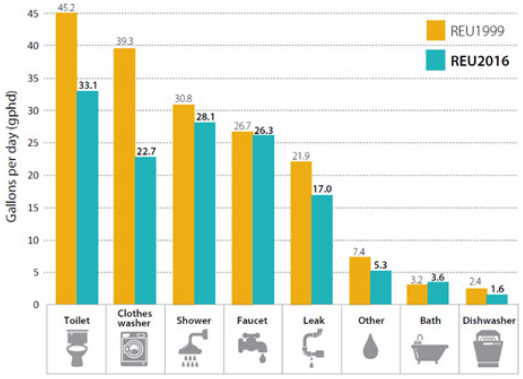
same—5.0 flushes per person per day. In REU1999, just 5 percent of toilet flushes were 2.2 gpf or less. In REU2016, 37 percent of toilet flushes were 2.2 gpf or less.

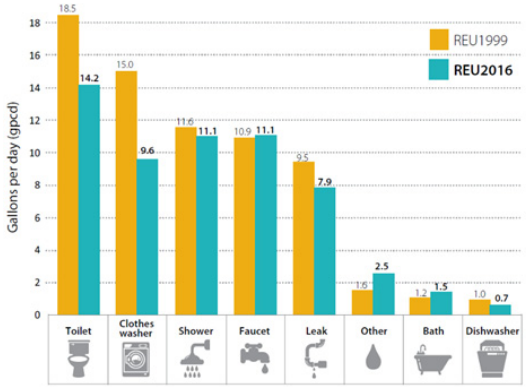
An automatic dishwasher was present in 84 percent of the end use study homes in REU2016. The average water volume per dishwasher load decreased 39 percent, from 10.0 gallons per load (REU1999) to 6.1 gpl (REU2016). A comparison of households showed that if a house lacked a dishwasher, faucet use did not increase, which would normally be supposed. Regardless of the presence of a dishwasher, faucet use averaged 26 gphd.

Figure 4. Average daily indoor per household water use REU1999 and REU2016



22%
DECREASE PER HOUSEHOLD
DAILY WATER USE
1999 TO 2016

Figure 5. Average daily indoor per capita water use REU1999 and REU2016



15%
DECREASE PER CAPITA
DAILY WATER USE
1999 TO 2016

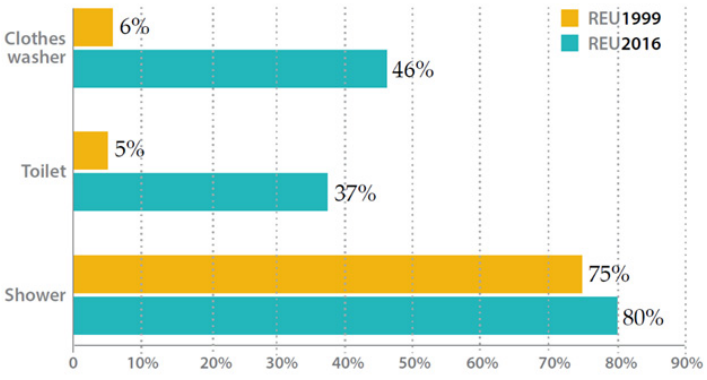
The average daily per capita leakage decreased 17 percent, from 9.5 gallons per capita daily (REU1999) to 7.9 gpcd (REU2016). Thirty-two percent of homes had higher leakage rates, as high as 600 gallons per household per day.

REU2016 shows minimal change in showering patterns. The average duration held steady at 7.8 minutes per shower. The flow rate decreased just 0.1 gallon per minute. The average faucet use per household and per capita did not change at a statistically significant level from REU1999 to REU2016. Bathtubs showed a small increase, from 1.2 gpcd (REU1999) to 1.5 gpcd (REU2016). The presence of children (aged 12 and under) increased bathtub use.

More efficient appliances and fixtures have contributed to significant reductions in residential indoor water use, but there remains much potential for additional savings. In REU2016, more than half of residences did not meet the study's efficiency criteria for clothes washers and toilets, and 20 percent did not meet those standards for showers (see Report Figure 6).

Even without a concerted effort on the part of homeowners to switch to more efficient appliances and fixtures, reductions are anticipated as old toilets and clothes washers wear out and are replaced. The current average daily indoor per household use of 138 gphd is expected to reduce to 110 gphd. Per capita use of 58.6 gpcd is expected to reduce to 36.7 gpcd in the coming years.

Figure 6. Percent of homes meeting efficiency criteria, REU1999 and REU2016
Efficiency criteria include: clothes washers ≤30 gal/load, toilets ≤2.2 gal/flush, showers ≤2.5 gal/minute.



25 Pa. Code Ch. 73 designates that single family dwelling sewage systems shall be designed based on a minimum flow of 400 gpd for all dwellings having three bedrooms or less. The minimum flow shall be increased by 100 gpd for each bedroom over three. It is important to distinguish between this "peak design daily flow volume" and an average flow. The system needs to accommodate flows during non-average peak usage such as during holiday gatherings, etc. held at the residence.

OSHA HEAT RULES (cont.)

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exist. On days when a recognized heat temperature can result in increased risks of heat-related illnesses, OSHA will increase enforcement efforts. Employers are encouraged to implement intervention methods on heat priority days proactively, including regularly taking breaks for water, rest, shade, training workers on how to identify common symptoms and what to do when a worker suspects a heat-related illness is occurring, and taking periodic measurements to determine workers' heat exposure.

OSHA Area Directors across the nation will institute the following:

- Prioritize inspections of heat-related complaints, referrals and employer-reported illnesses and initiate an onsite investigation where possible.
- Instruct compliance safety and health officers, during their travels to job sites, to conduct an intervention (providing the agency's heat poster/ wallet card, discuss the importance of easy access to cool water, cooling areas and acclimatization) or opening an inspection when they observe employees performing strenuous work in hot conditions.
- Expand the scope of other inspections to address heat-related hazards where worksite conditions or other evidence indicates these hazards may be present.

In October 2021, OSHA will take a significant step toward a federal heat standard to ensure protections in workplaces across the country by issuing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on heat injury and illness prevention in outdoor and indoor work settings.

The advance notice will initiate a comment period allowing OSHA to gather diverse perspectives and technical expertise on topics including heat stress thresholds, heat acclimatization planning, exposure monitoring, and strategies to protect workers.

The agency is also working to establish a National Emphasis Program on heat hazard cases, which will target high-risk industries and focus agency resources and staff time on heat inspections.

PMSA recently held a "lunch-and-learn" for local state legislators and their legislative staff in Bangor, PA. Led by PSMA lobbyist Angela Leopold and PSMA members Bruce Fox and Ned Lang, the visitors had the opportunity to learn more about the critical role onsite septic systems play in the protection of the local environment. Site tours of PSMA member Allstate Septic Systems' facilities and biosolid land application operations were provided.

Allstate Septic Systems, Bangor, PA

DEALING WITH FOG IN ONSITE SYSTEMS

FOG (fats, oils and grease) is a constituent of sewage, typically originating from food stuffs (animal fats or vegetable oils) or consisting of compounds of alcohol or glycerol with fatty acids (soaps and lotions), usually measured in mg/L.

cleanup and dishwashing, so commercial systems will typically have higher levels of fat than residential systems. If a system is supplied with a lot of animal fat, it will typically stay in the septic tank. If it is contained in the septic tank, it may not be observed in FOG measurements in downstream components.

SOURCES OF FOG

Fat found in onsite wastewater treatment systems is animal fat, oil from vegetable and cooking oils, and grease from petroleum-based soaps. FOG is generally treated in onsite wastewater treatment systems by separating them from the wastewater stream. At high temperatures, FOG is in a liquid state, but as the temperature cools, the fats component will solidify. FOG can be trapped in pretreatment components, such as septic tanks and grease traps, where it typically floats to the top of tanks. FOG is less dense and lighter than water.

It is important to try to contain FOG early in the system because it can accumulate inside pipes and lead to clogging of downstream components. FOG in excessive amounts interferes with aerobic biological processes and leads to decreased treatment efficiency.

FOG in domestic wastewater will generally originate in the kitchen or bathroom. Kitchen FOG usually comes from disposing of animal- or vegetable-based food scraps and liquids down the sink. Households using garbage disposals will have 30 to 40 percent more FOG than households not using garbage disposals. Bath oils, suntan lotions, hair conditioners and moisturizing creams are bathroom sources of FOG that enter the wastewater stream. An increased use in cooking oils, lotions and hair conditioners will directly increase the FOG concentration in the wastewater.

IMPACT OF FOG ON SYSTEMS

Fat - Animal fat is relatively easy to hold in a tank because it's quite sensitive to temperature. It becomes a solid at 80 degrees F, and wastewater temperature is usually cooler than that. Animal fat will break down in the soil, but it takes four times more energy to break down than the organic matter typically measured by BOD5. Fat is added to the system from cooking,

Oils - Vegetable oil is not as sensitive to temperature as fat and can pass through the system. Oil can also be broken down through a biological process, but it takes 12 times more energy to break down oil than the organic matter typically measured by BOD5. There are many different types of oils used, but vegetable oil is the most common. Vegetable oil is often used in liquid form, but it can also be solid shortening. The liquid form is harder to hold in a tank.

Grease - Grease is petroleum-based and can be toxic to a system. Because grease is petroleum-based, it cannot be broken down, but it can be separated. Grease comes from lotions, hair products and soaps. Typically, there will be a higher percentage of grease in the FOG from residential systems when compared to most commercial systems. Grease can build up over time, coating components and inhibiting treatment of other constituents in the wastewater.

DEALING WITH FOG

- Evaluate the facility to determine the sources of FOG.
- Sample the effluent, whenever possible, within 18 hours of known peak usage from a pump tank (ideal) or septic tank effluent that is not in need of maintenance.
- Work with the owner to reduce the levels if possible.
- Install an external grease interceptor if possible with sufficient retention time (one to four days) in addition to septic tank capacity. This will need frequent maintenance to work properly.
- Design a system that can handle the measured or anticipated levels.

Source: Sara Heger, Ph.D, Pumper Magazine

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UPCOMING TRAINING

101 Basic Inspector Certification Course
December 7-8, 2021
Holiday Inn, Lansdale, PA

Installation of Onsite Systems Course
January 31 - February 1, 2022
Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, PA

OSHA Confined Space Entry Training
January 31, 2022
Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, PA

OSHA Competent Person Training
February 1, 2022
Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, PA

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