

After the Drain





Hello!

I think you know what I do.

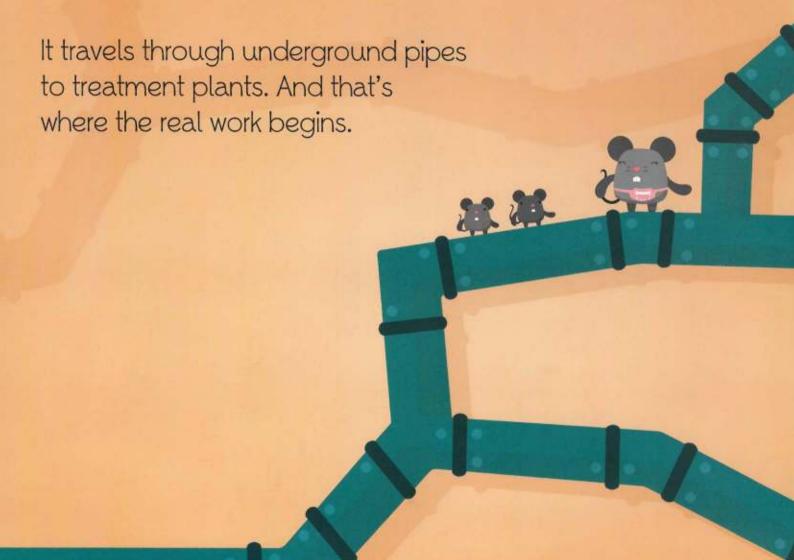


But, do you know what happens after you flush?

Or after you use the sink? Or shower?





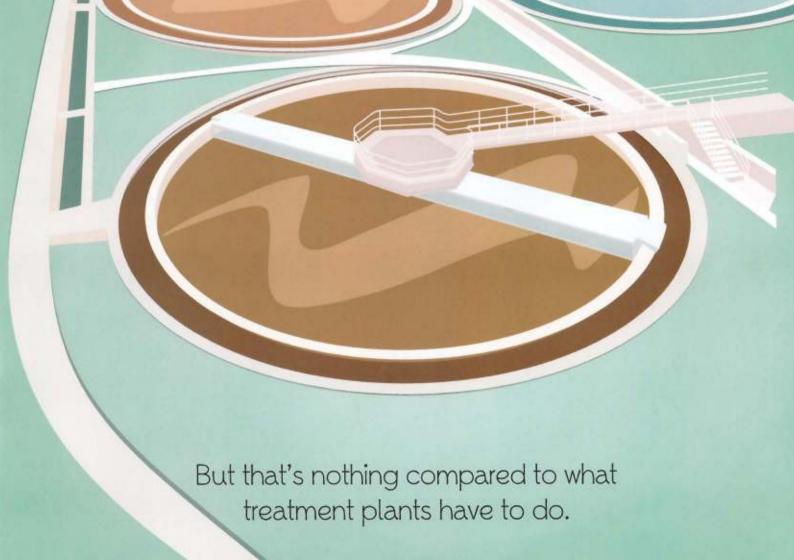


Now, I'm first to admit that I have it pretty easy.



Sure, I have to put up with some nasty smells and funny noises...





First, they put the wastewater through big screens, like sieves, to remove any rubbish and debris such as bandages, plastic bags, cotton buds and other things that shouldn't be there.



Like I said, don't get me started!

Then, they pump the wastewater into sedimentation tanks, which separate it into different parts.



Grease and oils float to the top and are removed while sludge settles on the bottom.



You might think sludge sounds pretty gross, so I'll use its scientific name – biosolids.





The wastewater that's left behind is put through another filter to remove any remaining solids.







Then the water can be safely released into rivers or the sea.





Or it can be sent on for more treatment and cleaning.

If only the people in my life were as serious about cleaning!

With further treatment, it can be recycled and used again in all sorts of ways, like watering farm crops, cooling machinery, or watering sports fields.



So next time you flush, have a shower or use the sink, be grateful someone else is cleaning up after you and doing all the hard work involved in wastewater treatment.



And please, turn the light off on your way out...



...and leave a toilet in peace.



Written by Bridget Cull

Created in collaboration with the savewater!® Alliance and Swinburne University of Technology

Republished by Smart Approved WaterMark in 2018

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www.smartwateradvice.org





Hello, I'm your Loo. I'm going to tell you a story about what happens to the water when you flush or use the sink. You'll be quite surprised, it may not go where you think!

Written by Bridget Cull and illustrated by Digital Media Design students at Swinburne University of Technology.



