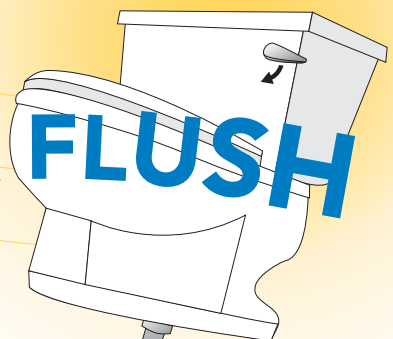




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THE JOURNEY OF YOUR FLUSH



Where does the water go when you flush?

Follow your flush as it heads to a wastewater treatment plant to get cleaned up for return to the river.

1 Flush!

From the toilet here at the **Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center**, your flush is pumped about 55 feet from a holding tank to a large, concrete, intercepting sewer. Your flush joins other flushes already in this 6-foot-6-inch-square sewer below the garden of the Water Works. There it begins its journey by gravity alongside the Schuylkill River to the wastewater treatment plant.

2 The sewer turns south on **23rd Street**, where your flush enters a circular concrete sewer, 6 feet 9 inches in diameter. You could drive a small car through it — not that you'd want to.

3 By the time the sewer reaches **Walnut Street**, it has collected so many flushes that it needs to be 8 feet in diameter to handle it all.

4 **Time to cross the Schuylkill River!** One of two fiberglass-lined, concrete syphon tubes, each 4 feet 2 inches in diameter, carries your flush 80 feet below the river bottom and back up on the other side. This is the low point of your flush's journey.

5 On **the west bank of the river**, your flush meets up with others from West Philadelphia and University City. Together, they flow into the **Central Schuylkill Pumping Station**. Now your flush gets a little help. Huge pumps lift it about 40 feet, so gravity can go back to work on the west side of the river.

6 By the time your flush reaches **Grays Ferry Avenue**, the sewer is huge — 12 feet 6 inches in diameter — to make room for all the additional flushes from Southwest Philadelphia. An elephant could walk through this pipe, no problem!



7 Your flush hits the **Southwest Main Gravity Intercepting Sewer** at **60th Street**. The sewer, 14 feet in diameter and nearly wide enough for two lanes of traffic, flows almost full.

8 Through the **Dispersion Chamber** at **70th & Dicks**, and your flush is in the home stretch. It enters one of the 6-foot-9-inch-tall conduits of the **Triple Section Sewer**. Your flush is moving fast along the last mile of its journey.

9 Made it!

Your flush, along with other wastewater, arrives at the **Southwest Water Pollution Control Plant** near Philadelphia International Airport. The journey of about ten miles has taken almost six hours.

FOLLOW YOUR FLUSH!

