

YorkshireWater

HOW WE TREAT WASTE WATER



1 Sewer

The used water from your home goes into a drain and then a sewer. These pipes carry the sewage to a treatment works, where the sewage is cleaned.



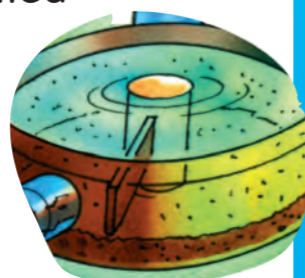
2 Screening

Sewage is treated to protect the environment. First, metal grids (called screens) remove solids such as wood, rags and paper.



3 Primary Treatment

The sewage flows into large tanks where most of the remaining solids settle to the bottom. This is called sewage "sludge".



4 Sludge Disposal

Sludge may be used as a fertiliser on farms, or burned in an incinerator (which can be used to produce energy). A small amount has to be buried.



5 Secondary Treatment - 1

Naturally-occurring "goodie" micro-organisms feed on the "baddies" in the sewage. One way is to trickle the liquid over stones on which the "goodies" live.



6 Secondary Treatment - 2

Another way is to mix the sewage with the micro-organisms in a tank. Oxygen is bubbled into the tank, so that the "goodies" can breathe and do their work.



7 Final Treatment

The cleaned sewage then goes to a settlement tank. Zapping the sewage with ultra-violet light also makes sure that any remaining "baddies" are killed.



8 Back to the river

The water is now returned to the environment and checked by Yorkshire Water scientists.

