

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii owns, operates, and maintains a wastewater collection system that services all Navy and Air Force component/tenant commands at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp H.M. Smith; and all military residences in and around the Pearl Harbor and Hickam area.

On any given day, approximately 5.5 million gallons of wastewater passes through 215 miles of Navy pipeline.

NAVFAC Hawaii personnel regularly clear blockages throughout the system and perform preventative maintenance with robotic camera inspections and high-pressure cleaning to ensure a consistent flow of wastewater to the treatment plant.

What is a SSO?

If blockages or clogs are not treated in time, they may lead to a Sanitary Sewer Overflow, otherwise known as an SSO. This is the backup of raw (untreated) sewage into the environment, streets, and even your home through sinks, showers, toilets and roadway manhole covers.

TIP:

Keep a watchful eye on rubber duckies and other bathtub toys. Sometimes kids like to take them for a dip in the toilet where they may end up getting flushed.



Storm Drain or Sanitary Sewer?

A common misconception is that the sewer system is the same as the storm drain system. Storm drains collect and transport rain water runoff to streams and the ocean with little to no treatment at all. Sanitary Sewer systems collect and transport residential and industrial human waste that will be filtered and treated before it is released into the environment.



Wastewater crews go out annually to neighborhoods to clean sewer lines using high pressure water and vacuums to remove items that may cause clogs.

What causes a SSO?

When non-dissolvable* products and waste like disposable wipes and grease are introduced to the sanitary sewer system, they clog pipes and pumps, preventing sewage from getting to where it needs to go, causing an overflow or backup in the system.

*These products may be biodegradable; however, it does not mean they are water soluble.



A Navy employee accesses a Sanitary Sewer entrance, which is labeled differently from Storm Drain holes.

How can I prevent a SSO?

SSOs are very preventable if the disposal of non-dissolvable products and waste are done properly. Items and waste like cleaning wipes, disposable diapers, and paper towels, fats, and grease should be thrown away in the trash.

A toilet is not a trash can and should not be treated as such; it should only be used for human waste, water, and toilet paper.

TIP:

Allow FOG (Fats, Oils, and Greasy) substances to cool and solidify before disposing of in the trash. If poured down the drain, they will cling to sewer pipes and restrict the flow of sewage, eventually leading to pipe blockages and a possible SSO.

Prohibited Items

• Non-dissolveable Products

- Disposable Cleaning Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Cloth Rags
- Sponges
- Sanitary Napkins
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Condoms
- Moist Towelettes
- Diapers
- Bandages
- Dental Floss
- Cotton Balls/Pads
- Ear Swabs (Q-tips)
- Disposable Toilet Brushes
- Plastics and Rubber Items



• FOG Substances

- Fats (Lard, Butter)
- Oils
- Greases



Cleaning wipes, floss, hair, and rags removed from a compactor at the Navy Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Navy Wastewater Treatment Plant

Located on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), near the entrance to Pearl Harbor in the Ewa district of Oahu, is the Navy Waste Water Treatment Plant. It is owned, operated, and maintained by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii.

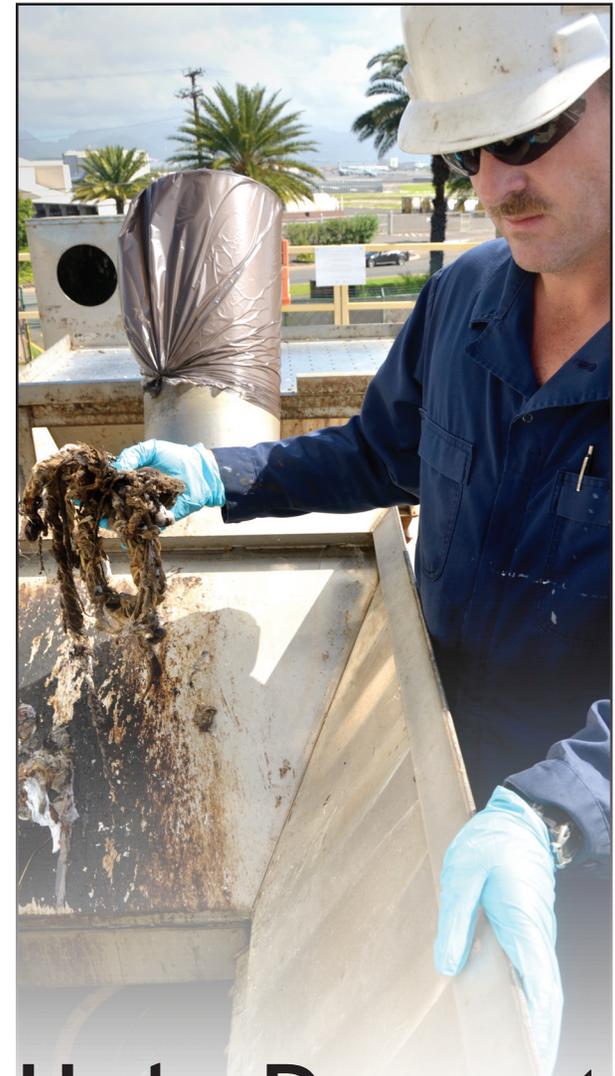
The facility covers approximately 11.61 acres and accepts both domestic (household) and industrial wastewater. It provides treatment through the use of clarifiers, an activated sludge process, and effluent filtration for approximately 5.5 million gallons of wastewater per day.

Wastewater is generated by JBPHH, including all Navy, Air Force component commands (ashore and afloat) and other Department of Defense organizations at Pearl Harbor, Ford Island, U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Smith; and Navy/Air Force/Coast Guard military family housing units on or near JBPHH.

The plant was built in increments starting in 1969. Its original capacity was 28,000 m³/day or 7.5 million gallons per day. With the completion of a number of large-scale construction projects in 1997, the facility's capacity was expanded to 49,000 m³/day or 13 million gallons per day. In January 2005, the plant's deep-water outfall was brought online, moving the dispersal of its effluent 1.5 miles off shore. This facility's tertiary treatment (advanced cleaning) of both domestic and industrial wastewater is beneficial to the U.S. Navy and the State of Hawaii, keeping the island's ocean waters clean.



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Help Prevent SSOs Sanitary Sewer Overflows