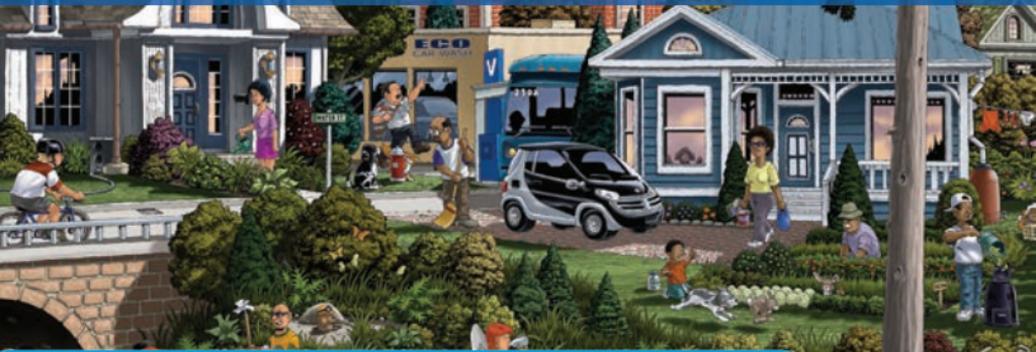


TAP TO SOURCE

Explore the path our water takes from your home back to the source.



Down the Drain

All the water that goes down a drain or toilet inside our homes, businesses and other buildings (wastewater) is collected in large underground pipes called sewers and transported to a water resource recovery facility for treatment. Most of York Region's wastewater is treated at the Duffin Creek Plant in Pickering. Wastewater from smaller communities in central York Region is collected and treated by smaller local plants.

Pumping Station

Water flows downhill due to gravity, so the water resource recovery facility is usually located at a low-point in the service area. If the force of gravity isn't enough, pumping stations move wastewater through force mains (pressurized sewers) to the facility.



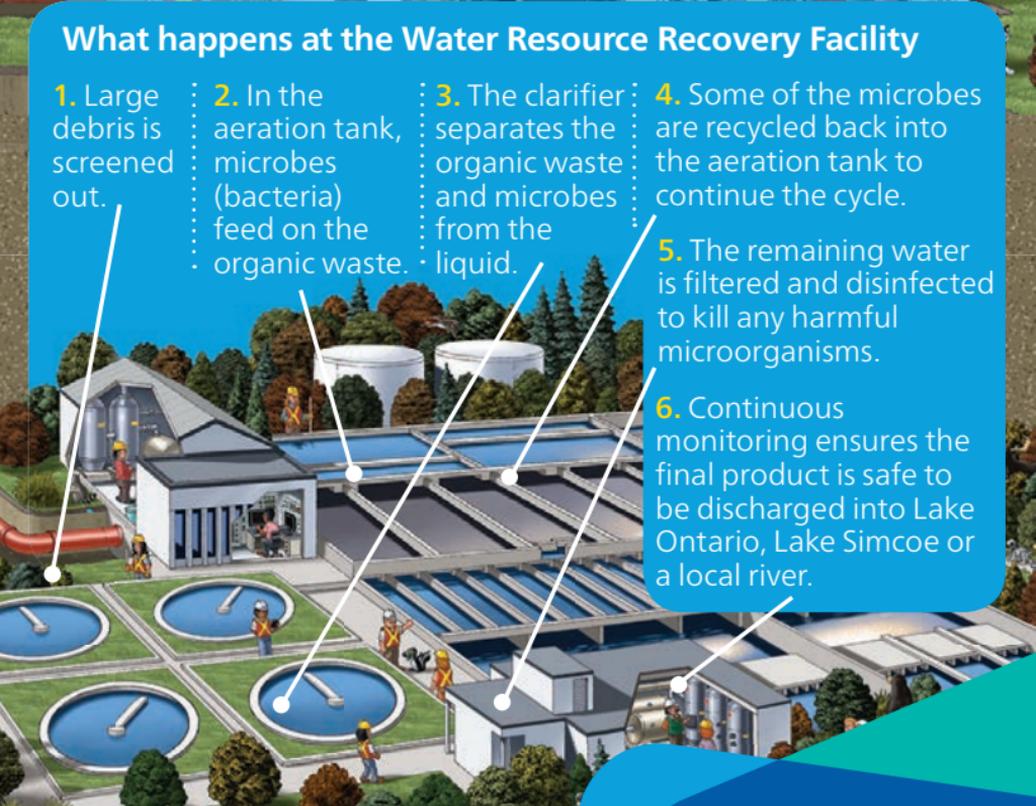
Storm Drains

The storm drain system collects water, rain and melted snow from roofs and driveways. This water flows into storm water management ponds, or directly into surface water courses with no treatment.



What happens at the Water Resource Recovery Facility

1. Large debris is screened out.
2. In the aeration tank, microbes (bacteria) feed on the organic waste.
3. The clarifier separates the organic waste and microbes from the liquid.
4. Some of the microbes are recycled back into the aeration tank to continue the cycle.
5. The remaining water is filtered and disinfected to kill any harmful microorganisms.
6. Continuous monitoring ensures the final product is safe to be discharged into Lake Ontario, Lake Simcoe or a local river.



SOURCE TO TAP

Explore the path our water takes from source to tap to see the many ways York Region keeps it safe.

Source Water Protection

We take steps to stay healthy – like wearing sunscreen at the beach and regular exercise. We can also take steps to keep our water supply clean and safe.

York Region's water supply comes from Lake Ontario, Lake Simcoe and underground sources through municipal wells. If not managed properly, what happens in the sensitive areas around these sources could impact the quality of the water.

Treating and Testing

At a water treatment facility water is filtered and disinfected to remove dirt and kill harmful bacteria. Highly trained staff monitor the process and regularly test the water-24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change conducts regular inspections of the process. Results are available on the York Region website.

Home Delivery

Hundreds of kilometres of underground pipes carry clean water from a treatment facility to our homes. Along the way, more tests are done to ensure it's top quality drinking water flowing from our taps.