ROCHESTER
PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Water Reclamation Plant - Certified Hauler Training

(Portable Toilet, Septage, & Leachate Haulers)

The City of Rochester Public Works Environmental Services Department operates and maintains the infrastructure required to convey and treat the City of Rochester's wastewater. There are over 500 miles of sewer line in the City of Rochester, and the Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) treats an average of 11 million gallons of wastewater per day.

Efficient operations of the receiving stations and treatment plant help make Rochester a leading service provider. We appreciate everyone's efforts to help keep the WRP clean and safe.



Pictured above: Aerial photo of the WRP.

Rochester Code of Ordinances 12-5 provides guidelines of what cannot be discharged into the public sewer; therefore requiring waste from sources such as portable toilets, septic tanks, grease interceptors and landfill leachate to be hauled to the wastewater plant for proper disposal. It is a violation of Federal law to discharge these types of waste or anyother hauled waste into any manhole, drain, or any other point in the collection system that has not been designated by the WRP.

All waste haulers wanting to discharge waste at the WRP, as well as all haulers wanting to clean grease interceptors within the City of Rochester must complete WRP's certification course.

In order to be a WRP Certified Hauler, you must:

•Complete this online training and pass the final test

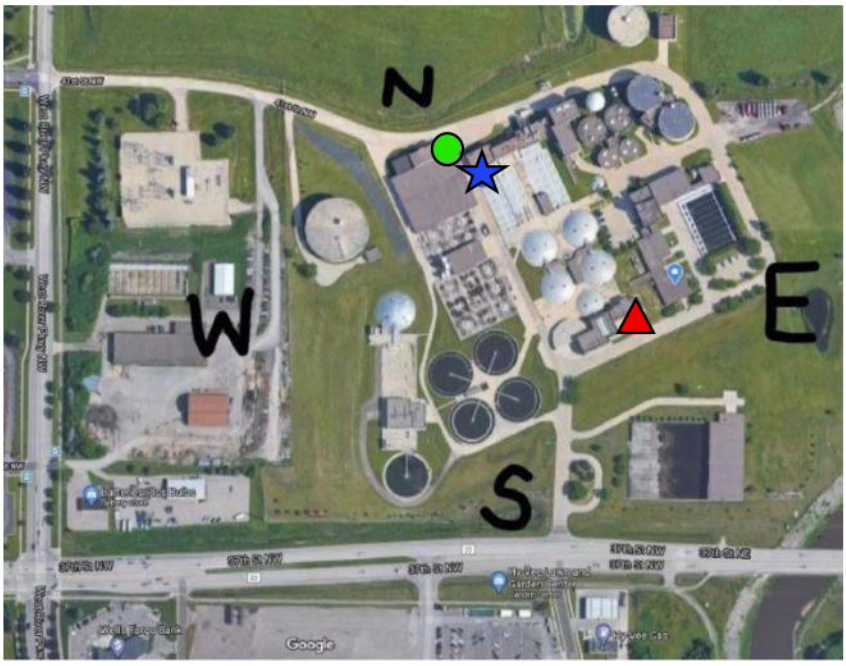
•Be trained on all types of waste received by the WRP even if your business does not collect them

•Understand how to empty hauled waste in a **clean** and **safe** manner

•Be familiar with the necessary paperwork

The WRP is located at 301 37th Street NW and is open for waste disposal from 6:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Anyone wishing to dispose of waste at other times must make arrangements ahead of time. There are two gates to enter WRP property: one off of 37th Street NW and another off West River Parkway NW.

A waste discharge form must be filled out PRIOR to disposal of any waste at the WRP. These forms are located just inside the door of the Primary Clarifier building. This location is marked with a **bright green circle** in the aerial photo below. The **blue star** is where the septic hauler discharge point is and the **red triangle** is where the grease hauler & mobile food unit discharge point is.





Discharge Locations

The FOG (fats, oils and grease) receiving area is located inside WRPs facility gates on the south side of the property in front of the building labeled “Influent Pump Station”. A funnel was added in 2022 for ease of discharge for people dumping buckets of FOG waste. This funnel only has a 1.5-inch diameter opening, so it is not intended for hose discharge.



There are two different camlock fitting sizes here: 4-inch diameter and 6 inch diameter

This location is or discharging:

FOG from grease interceptors, Mobile Food Unit Waste, other wastes per instructions from WRP staff.



The septage/portable toilet receiving station is located inside WRP’s facility gates. The station is located near the north end of the site- closer to the facility’s 41st Street NW gate.

There is a 6-inch diameter camlock (marked with a **green circle** in the following picture) as well as an 8-inch diameter hole covered with a metal lid (marked with a **blue star** in the following picture); either spot can be used to discharge.

This location is for discharging:

Septage, Portable Toilet Waste, Leachate.



An RV dumping connection is located on WRP property, just outside the facility's 37th Street NW gate. This RV dump location is NOT to be used by any hauler; **this area is for residents' camper and RV waste only**. We have cameras here and will issue fines for any hauled waste company that discharges at this location.



Directions can be given by WRP staff at the Administration Building. If you would like to discharge waste that is not grease, septage or portable toilet waste you will need to talk to WRP staff to get prior approval and to determine the proper disposal location for your waste. This is because the different disposal points feed into the plant at different locations and have the potential to impact the treatment process. *If you are unsure about where you need to discharge your waste PLEASE ASK!*

Waste Discharge Forms

All Waste Discharge Forms must include the address or point of collection (if possible) and the type of waste. They must also include tanker size, best estimate of liquid volume, and company information. Drivers must also include their unique identification number that was provided for access to this online training. Haulers disposing of waste from multiple sources can complete one single form so long as all source locations are listed to the best of their abilities.

Any false statements or deliberate misrepresentation may result in penalties and being banned from disposing at the WRP. If we receive a waste The Waste Discharge Form requires haulers note the size of the tank on the truck, as well as the best estimate of liquid volume in the tank at the time of dumping. Haulers must indicate the *maximum capacity* for each truck that is dumping at the WRP in the "tank size" space on the form.



WASTE DISCHARGE FORM

City of Rochester
Water Reclamation Plant

Date: _____ Time: _____ Driver #: _____

Hauler: _____ Driver: _____

Waste Source Name: _____

Waste Source Address: _____

_____

Waste Source Type: ☐ Septage ☐ Portable Toilets ☐ FOG

☐ Leachate ☐ Other _____

Commercial Waste: ☐ In Town ☐ Out of Town

Tank Size: _____ Fee: _____

Gallons Discharged: _____

Any false statements or deliberate [illegible]presentation may result in penalties under City Ordinances.

The Water Reclamation Plant accepts the following wastes:

•Domestic septage

•Portable toilet waste

•FOG (Fats, Oils, & Greases)

•Mobile Food Unit waste

•Leachate

•Industrial waste with prior approval

•Flammable waste traps that have all petroleum and grit separated

The Water Reclamation Plant does **NOT** accept:

•Hazardous waste

•Industrial waste without prior approval

•Petroleum-contaminated waste or waste with visible oil sheen

•Sandy or gritty waste

*Important note: if you haul any of the prohibited materials listed above, *especially* hazardous waste, be sure to wash your truck thoroughly before filling it with other material and discharging waste at the WRP. Even a residual amount of these materials in your tank can contaminate the next batch of material and cause operational issues at the WRP.

All charges for waste disposal are based on truck capacity. There are no partial load discounts. Rates are scheduled to increase annually, and current rates are listed on WRPs website: www.rochestermn.gov/wastewater

The WRP will charge the current rate for the maximum capacity of your truck and the rate increases by $1 each year. For example: a septage truck with a 1,000 gallon tank will be charged $127 for 1000 gallons in 2026, even if the tank only contains 800 gallons of liquid. It is in your best interest to fill your tank up as full as possible before discharging.

Please talk to WRP staff before mixing different types of waste in a truckload. The reason for this is because different types of waste need to be disposed of at different locations due to the potential impact on treatment processes. For example: mixing septage and FOG can cause WRP operational problems.

Spill Procedure

All drivers are responsible for cleaning up any spills. The following spill procedures must be followed:

•Use a bucket to catch drips.

•*All trucks must have dry absorbent materials, brooms, and dust pans on them AT ALL TIMES.*

•Clean up spills using dry absorbent materials, brooms, and dust pans.

•Spills must NOT be washed away with any chemicals or water.

•ALL spills must be reported to WRP staff.

•*Any person that spills, doesn't notify us and does not clean it up will receive a $300 fine and will be subject to being prohibited from discharging waste to the WRP.*

Haulers are responsible for their own hoses. The WRP allows one standard size hose to be left at the hauler septage dump station and FOG dump station for convenience, but it is not the WRP's responsibility to replace or maintain it. If a hauler leaves behind a hose anyone can use it.

Please make sure to drain hoses after disconnecting from your truck. Failure to do so can result in spillage.



Pictured above: red arrow pointing to communal-use hoses at septage/portable waste receiving station.



PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THERE ARE CAMERAS AT THE DISCHARGE STATIONS!

Billing

Monthly invoices are sent to haulers who dump waste at the WRP. It is the company's responsibility to pay the invoice in a timely manner. Failure to pay invoices will result in the hauler no longer being able to dispose of waste at the WRP.

FOG

Fats, oils and grease, also referred to as "FOG", are by-products from cooking with items such as meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, and dairy products. Large amounts of FOG are commonly found in Food Service Establishments (FSEs) or Mobile Food Units. However, FOG is produced anywhere food is prepared such as residential homes and other businesses.

When FOG is poured down the drain, it solidifies and builds up in the pipes. Blockages from the FOG can cause back-ups in the kitchens or basements, or can lead to sanitary sewer overflows. These back ups and overflows are a health risk along with causing unpleasant odors. Back-ups are expensive and unpleasant to clean up and the business/home owner is liable for the damages caused by their FOG buildup.



Pictured above: what grease looks like when it clogs a sewer line.

Grease interceptors are used in commercial Food Service Establishments (FSEs) to capture FOG from wastewater before it reaches the public sewer system. These interceptors must be cleaned regularly and the collected FOG must be disposed of properly by a certified hauler.

If you are interested in pumping out grease interceptors and discharging that waste at the WRP, please contact the FOG Coordinator (e-mail: fog@rochestermn.gov) to get more information.

Certified Hauler List

The WRP has a list on its website of certified haulers. This list is given to members of the public when they are looking for businesses that provide wastewater-related services.

When a business has its employees take and pass the WRP's certified hauler training, that business is added to the certified hauler list on the WRP website. Once you become certified, your company will automatically be added to the list (if it is not on there already.)

If you do not want your company listed as a WRP-certified hauler, please contact the Environmental Team at 507-328-2650 to talk to someone about getting removed from the list.