

This is a story that helps us think about what we are sending down the drain. Everything we flush down our toilets and wash down our sinks ends up at a Water Reclamation Plant where it takes lots of energy to clean, before it is returned to the environment – and enters the water cycle once again. All this wastewater travels through underground pipes that connect all our houses and businesses.

- a) We start our journey at JAYDEN's house. Jayden has just woken up and is getting ready for school. He grabs his brekky: a really big bowl of corn flakes with milk. Probably too much, really. After scoffing the bowl, he's had enough, and wanders over to the sink, tipping down the leftover milk. He is feeling a bit queasy – oh well – off to school. Underneath his feet the milk flows through the sewer pipe...
- b) Next door is HANNAH's house. Hannah has a big presentation at work today and she needs to look her best. She is doing her make up very carefully in the bathroom mirror. After a good hour of making herself look fab', she is all done. She used a wet wipe to clean her face and some cotton buds to get her look just right. She throws them all into the toilet. Flush. Down the toilet the cotton buds and wet wipe go, down into our sewer pipe... oh, Hannah – this should have gone in the bin!
- c) Our pipe now goes a bit further into town. We are at a busy café. ANIKA is working hard making coffees for her customers. In between orders she cleans up the tables. A few customers have only half finished their coffees. Anika quickly tips them down the sink and pops the cups in the dishwasher. Back to the coffee machine for some more orders, meanwhile, the coffee flows through into our sewer pipe...
- d) Our pipe now bends and connects up to a house where MASON is doing a big load of laundry, he and his wife have a lot of young kids. Dirty nappies and mucky clothes spin around in the washing machine, getting cleaner and cleaner. But the water and detergent used to clean them is now very dirty – all the muck has to go somewhere! Down the drain this dirty water flows, into our pipes. BEEP – Mason unloads the washing and heads to the line to hang it out. Underground, our pipe keeps going, carrying the wastewater further along.
- e) We follow our pipe to a house that is being renovated by JESSICA. She's worked hard on the house and everything is looking great. Today she is finishing off painting one of the bedrooms. After a few last brush-strokes she steps back, satisfied. Great job, Jessica. Now to clean up. She washes her brushes in some turpentine and then tips it down the sink. The chemicals in the paint and turpentine mixture flows into our pipe...
- f) Our pipe goes under a local school. In a classroom we see JAYDEN again. He really did eat too much cornflakes and milk this morning. His belly is churning. He doesn't have time to raise his hand to ask permission – he runs to the bathrooms and has a massive spew in the toilet. Yuck. Off to sick bay. And down the pipe his spewed-up brekky goes...
- g) Our pipe sure is carrying a lot now: milk, coffee, dirty laundry water, chemicals, someone's spew....not to mention all the toilets along the way. Now the pipe travels further along, under another house where OLIVER has just finished cooking tea: lamb chops – yum! Oliver takes the chops out of the pan, which is full of grease and fat...and he tips it out down the sink! The fat slides down the sink and into our sewer pipe... oh, Oliver – that should have gone in the bin!
- h) Last of all, our pipe heads under YOUR house! You are just about to go to bed, but before that – off to the loo for a wee. Ahhh that's better. Time for bed. But the pipes don't get to sleep, they carry our yucky waste water all the way off to be cleaned and then, ultimately, returned to the environment. So, let's learn a bit more about that.

Your character is:

JAYDEN

(You will come up twice in the story)

Your character is:

HANNAH

Your character is:

ANIKA

Your character is:

MASON

Your character is:

JESSICA

Your character is:

OLIVER