

WOODWARD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT BYPASS NOTICE

Please be advised that wastewater bypass procedures are currently in effect at the Woodward Wastewater Treatment Plant.

What is a bypass?

A wastewater treatment plant bypass occurs when flow exceeds capacity of the plant. This is typically caused by flow increase due to rain events or high lake levels. During a bypass, all preliminary treatment occurs, as well as disinfection, to ensure treated water complies with regulations before released into the natural environment.

Why are bypasses required?

Hamilton has a very large combined sewer system, where one pipe carries both rainwater and sewage to the wastewater treatment plant. This is typical for a city of this age with a complex sewer system. When the plant is beyond capacity, bypasses are required to:

- Prevent rainwater and sewage in the combined sewers from backing up and potentially causing basement and/or surface flooding.
- Help protect the wastewater treatment plant’s ability to continue treating wastewater.
- Help prevent the wastewater treatment plant from flooding, which can cause significant infrastructure damage.

Bypass Impacts:

Although a bypass event will send partially treated wastewater into Hamilton Harbour, this will not have any impact on drinking water quality.

When this bypass event is complete, you will receive a notification.

If you have any questions about this notification, please contact the Hamilton Water Community Outreach Educator during business hours at COHwater@hamilton.ca.

Thank you and take care,

City of Hamilton

