

# DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

[www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org)

MARCH 2019

## What is a FATBERG?

A fatberg is an accumulation of congealed grease, flushable wipes, food products, sanitary napkins and other non-biodegradable matter. These obstructions can be as strong as concrete, and many times will require special equipment to remove them. The information below was pulled from Wikipedia:

- August of 2013 a fatberg consisting of food fat and wet wipes, the size of a bus was discovered in drains under London Road in London.
- September of 2014 a solid mass of waste fat, wet wipes, food, tennis balls and wood planks the size of a Boeing 747 was discovered in Shepherd's Bush, London.
- September of 2017 a fatberg of congealed fat, wet wipes, and waste was discovered under the streets of Baltimore, MD that caused the spillage of 1.2 million gallons of sewage into Jones Falls.
- September of 2018 a 19-ton fatberg of fats, oils, and solid items was discovered in Macomb County, Michigan. Officials said that baby wipes are the most common culprit.

It is important to create public awareness to prevent these fatbergs from accumulating. Costs to remove these obstructions can run into the hundreds of thousands, or more if there is a spill which will require significant cleanup efforts and are a detriment to the environment. To prevent the formation of a fatberg we all must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Do not flush wipes of any kind. Flushable wipes are not biodegradable and must not be flushed.
- Do not flush Q-Tips, sanitary napkins, condoms, dental floss, etc...
- Do not pour grease or oils down the drain. Pour used grease into a container and dispose of it in your trash.
- Do not put large amounts of food waste down the disposal. Throw them in the trash and use the disposal to chop up small food remnants when doing dishes.



Photo courtesy of: [quickerrooterplumbing.ca](http://quickerrooterplumbing.ca)

# DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

[www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org)

MARCH 2019

## Summer Hires

Each summer, Donala employs temporary laborers for maintenance work on the District's properties. We will be looking for two summer hires this spring. Applicants should be college students who are District residents and who aren't afraid of manual labor and getting pretty dirty. Duties will include summer maintenance of District facilities to include landscaping, painting, fence repair and similar activities. Additionally, there is a week in the summer when maintenance is necessary at the District's Willow Creek Ranch, just outside of Leadville. Staff will stay on the Ranch for the time it takes to complete the needed work. This is an excellent opportunity for a science minded student as well, as there will be some exposure to the chemical and biological processes of water and wastewater treatment. The pay rate for new hires will be \$14.00 per hour. The application deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications can be obtained at the main office located at 15850 Holbein Dr or on our website, [donalawater.org](http://donalawater.org). Pre-employment drug screening and a driving record review are required prior to a final offer of employment.

## More Water Facts

- Of all the Earth's water, 97% is salt water located in oceans and seas.
- Only 1% of the Earth's water is available for drinking water.
- The average daily requirement for fresh water in the United States is about 338 billion gallons, with about 300 billion gallons used as untreated water for agriculture and other commercial uses.
- You can refill an 8 oz. glass of water approximately 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of soda.
- There are more than 200,000 individual water systems providing water to the public in the United States, including the Donala Water and Sanitation District.

 **Happy  
St. Patrick's Day!**

Your General Manager,

*Kip Peterson*

