

Spring Cleaning is not just for your house.

Spring is here and it's great time to make plans for a spring cleaning that will knock your socks off! Take some time to plan your spring cleaning and then charge on! My friend at a certain WWTP commented that, "winter is too darn cold and summer is just too hot". Just like Baby Bear's porridge from the story of Goldilocks, Spring is just right for all those chores you had planned.

Before you dismiss the idea, consider this: a dirty plant will cost you in the long run, even in ways you've never thought about. Think of your plant like a well maintained car or truck.

Periodic Maintenance of a domestic sewage treatment plant is an absolute must. Regular maintenance means these areas:

Mechanical system—unless you have the experience, tools and training, leave this work to proper service engineers

Electrical system—working on the plant's electrical system may require trained service engineers.

Routine Desludging The sewage treatment plant for off-mains use must be desludged periodically, according to guidelines in the owner's manual.

Cleaning Thoroughly clean chemical, storage, and sludge tanks; settling and aeration basins; clarifiers; storm drains; lift stations; oil/water separators; grease traps; flocculation channels; ponds and lagoons; and plant walls and floors.

Pipeline cleaning/jetting Power wash pipes and lines of all sizes, regaining proper flow rates and eliminating contaminants.

Scheduled cleaning projects Regular, routine cleaning is a critical part of preventive maintenance. By scheduling regular services for your wastewater treatment plant, you'll help ensure your operations run smoothly and efficiently.

Built-up sludge found in pits and wells at treatment plants can negatively impact the wastewater treatment process. Combination machines are used to clean pits and wells at treatment plants to remove sludge build up over a period of time. Material is flushed to a vacuum tube to remove material that affects the productivity of the wastewater treatment process. Periodic cleaning is required based on system design.

Stoppages are caused by obstructions in the pipe, such as roots, grease, debris, broken pipe or a joint failure. Partial or complete interruption of the flow may result from an obstruction in a sewer. When a stoppage occurs, material will backup and eventually overflow the system up to the point of the blockage.

Storm water run-off often carries gravel, sand, leaves and

other street debris. This material often runs down the system after it has rained, creating build up within the storm sewer system. When the rainwater can no longer flow down a system because pipes and culverts are blocked, streets will become flooded which creates hazardous or impassable travel conditions. The best way to keep a sewer or storm system working properly is to perform routine inspection and cleaning.

The objective of a Sewer Cleaning and Maintenance Program is to operate and maintain the wastewater collection system so it will function as well and:

- Minimize the number of stoppages per mile of sewer pipe
- Minimize the number of odor complaints Minimize the number of lift station failures
- Maintain intended flow in the system
- Protect fresh water resources.

Catch basins allow surface water runoff to enter the storm water conveyance system, while trapping solids and sediments that might otherwise end up polluting the receiving water bodies. Catch basin cleaning is an efficient and cost

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6M1 Cycle is in progress. Last day for sampling is June 30th 2017.

All sites and alternative sites must be approved by TCEQ before sampling.

Check to see if you are required by visiting Texas Drinking Watch website.

Form 20467 to get sites approved.

Form TCEQ 20683 – to be submitted to the laboratory with the sample.

Why Use Eastex Lab?

Help ensure samples submitted are compliant with TCEQ requirements.

Help prevent violations due to improper samples.

At Eastex Environmental Laboratory, we compare data against MCL limits for earlier notification.

Give guidance with paperwork, reporting to the State, and understanding the process.

We send data to TCEQ electronically and then verify that TCEQ has received it.

We provide you with sample bottles.

We will pick up your samples from the Houston, Beaumont and Nacogdoches surrounding areas.

Get your results fast! View your results online from anywhere.

effective method for preventing flooding as well as removing the sediment and pollutants before they can get into the waterways. A regular schedule of catch basin cleaning improves both aesthetics and local water quality.

Wet wells are the holding sump for gravity-flow sewer systems. As sewage enters the wet well and the water level rises, pumps are engaged to pump out the sewage to a forced main, or the sewage is lifted to a higher grade to continue the gravity flow to the outlet point. Solid material will accumulate in the bottom of the wet well and incoming sewage lines.

Lift stations are low points in a gravity-flow sewer system where incoming sewage is pumped from a well to a higher grade to continue the gravity flow to the treatment plant. As solid material, such as rags, enter the lift station, buildup will occur on the bottom of the well and in other components within the station. Solid materials can often plug or damage pump impellers, so periodic cleaning is required to remove the solid material from the lift station.

Inefficiency: Dirty plants are inefficient plants. When equipment is grimy, it doesn't operate well. In fact, dirt, dust, built-up lubricants, and the like may actually cause machinery to fail, leaving you with decreased production and a pile of repair bills. Plus, when you don't take good care of your machinery, you're drastically shortening its life. Just like your car or truck. Are you willing to spend thousands to replace costly equipment sooner than you should have to just because you didn't properly maintain it?

Regulatory Violations: Inspectors take seriously their agency's rules for compliance with good manufacturing practices, and unsanitary facilities don't impress them. Dirty surroundings, deficient equipment, and unsafe conditions lead to warning, citations, and fines. Noncompliance can even lead to an operation shutdown, causing huge revenue losses and plant turnaround expenses.

So don't postpone your plant spring cleaning because before you know it, it will be summer .

Eastex Lab will hosting **TEEX classes**. Please let us know which classes you would like us to schedule.

WQP? Texas, we got this!

Spring is just full of more news! TCEQ has implemented changes to Water Quality Parameters (WQP) effective April 1st 2017. TCEQ only accepts data electronically from an accredited lab such as Eastex Lab. Call us and we can assist you with your WQP.

Effective April 1st 2017, all WQPs will include the following:

- Total Alkalinity
- Calcium
- Chloride
- Conductivity
- Total Hardness
- Iron
- Manganese
- pH
- Sodium
- Sulfate
- Temperature
- Total Dissolved Solids

In addition, if you use inhibitors such as silica and or orthophosphate, they must be analyzed as well.

TCEQ is also requiring data to come from the laboratory in an EDD format.

The WQP form **20679 has changed**. New form can be found on TCEQ's website. Eastex Lab can also email you the new 20679 form.

WQP Quarter ending March 31st

All WQPS are to be done in their assigned quarters. The first quarter is ending on March 31st and PWS must get their WQPs done before March 31st or TCEQ will give you a violation.

Check with TCEQ on how many Entry Points, and Distribution Points you need in each quarter. Or call Eastex Lab for help.

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Our Mission: Participate in the protection of the environment and public health by delivering reliable, quality analytical data and environmental compliance services in a friendly, personal, professional manner while growing our employees in experience and skill.

Have you emailed Eastex Lab your permit?

Deadlines are closer than they appear!

6M1 2017 LCR—last day to sample June 30th 2017. Lab needs time to run the test and send the report to TCEQ, so don't wait until the last minute. Visit Texas Drinking Water Watch to see your LCR and WQP schedules. After you get your report, you must inform your customers and TCEQ or you will a get violation.