



Hoosac Water Quality District

Williamstown, Mass. 01267
Tel. 413-458-8423 Fax 413-458-5016
667 Simonds Road
P.O. Box 172

May 24, 1999

Dear Sir or Madam:

At the Hoosac Water Quality District facility in Williamstown, we treat more than five million gallons per day of wastewater from businesses and homes in North Adams, Clarksburg, and Williamstown. Biological processes at work in our primary and secondary treatment tanks catch and purify like wastewater. The treated water, which we discharge from our plant to the Hoosac River, must meet strict Federal and State regulations for its purity.

We mix sludge separated from the wastewater with wood chips in special sleds, winery sludge occurring; bacteria digest and sterilize the mixture to create a high-quality compost. Our compost also meets strict Federal and State regulations; if it were to contain toxic substances it could not be used by landscapers and contractors as a rich soil amendment and plant nutrient.

Even very small amounts of harmful or toxic substances including solvents, acids, caustics, pesticides, weed killers, paint removers, heavy metals (lead, mercury, nickel, chrome, etc.) released to the sewer can wreak havoc with our treatment plant's equipment and processes. These toxics kill the microorganisms that digest and purify the solids in the wastewater. They can injure our workers, damage our equipment, and pass through our plant to pollute the river and contaminate the compost.

We urge each business served by the District to reduce or eliminate the use of toxic and harmful substances by substituting non-toxic alternatives. The result will be a safer workplace, less risk of toxic spills or discharges, and a cleaner community. The enclosed brochure provides more details of these benefits and explains how businesses can get technical assistance to help reduce or eliminate the use of toxics.

Thank you for helping us to keep our communities and businesses clean and green!

Sincerely,

George L. Heisler, Jr.
Chief Operator