

## how to be a hero

The things we all use most water on are: laundry, showers, dishwashing... oh and flushing the toilet.

So if you want to be a hero, ride out the storm and:



**do laundry later**



**take a shorter shower**  
(or have one later)



**delay dishwashing**

And if you're really brave...



**if it's yellow, let it mellow – wait to flush the toilet.**  
(that's right, we went there.)

Remember, when there's heavy rain, rest the drain.



## about DEP

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) protects public health and the environment by supplying clean drinking water, collecting and treating wastewater, and reducing air, noise, and hazardous materials pollution.

We provide a billion gallons of water and treat 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater for nine million New Yorkers every day. Over the next 10 years we plan to invest \$14 billion in infrastructure and other projects to improve our city.

For more information, visit [nyc.gov/dep](http://nyc.gov/dep), like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter.



# Wait... you can be a hero.

You can keep our waterways clean and healthy for our community and wildlife.

And it's easy.

All you have to do is Wait...



## wait in 1 minute

The waterways of New York have been getting cleaner and healthier. Wildlife and people continue to enjoy the waterways in their neighborhood. But there can be a problem.

When there's heavy rain, New York City's sewers can fill to capacity and a mix of stormwater and wastewater can end up in our waterbodies.

You can be a hero by waiting to use water in your home when there's a heavy storm.

Join the movement that's improving our community and keeping our waterways clean for wildlife. We'll send you a free text message alert\* when there's a heavy storm and another when it's all clear.

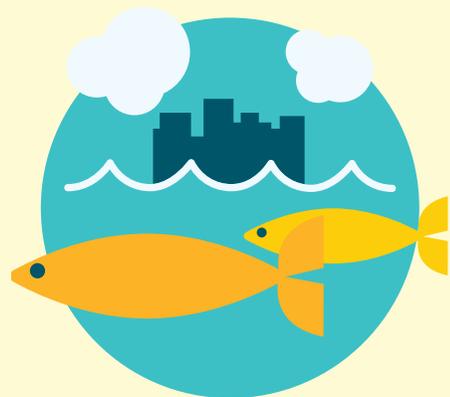
We'll send you a free text message alert\* when there's a heavy storm and another one when it's all clear.

Text 38671 with wait-nycdep start to join\*  
Read on for the full story.

\* DEP will not charge you for any text messages. Standard data fees and text messaging rates may apply based on your plan with your mobile phone carrier.

## a good news story

New York City's waterways are making a comeback. They are the cleanest and safest they've been in 100 years. Which is great news for all of us. As citizens we can continue to enjoy our waterways and wildlife can, too. Fish, shellfish and seals can all be found in the New York Harbor.



## an easy way to be a hero

You can be a hero and help keep our waterways clean for our community and wildlife. And it's super easy. All you need to do is wait to use water until after the heavy storm.

When there's heavy rain, rest the drain. We're not asking you to wait every time it rains, only when we get those crazy, heavy New York City downpours. So, most of the time you can carry on as normal.



## the perfect storm

We all need to use water every day. But when there's a heavy storm and heavy household water usage, our sewers can reach capacity. When this happens, a mix of stormwater and wastewater can end up in our waterways.

Think of it like rush hour on the freeway: there's only so much road and when everyone's trying to use it at the same time it can get jammed. And just like rush hour, the smartest thing to do is avoid it.

## sign up to the hero hotline



Text 38671 with **wait-nycdep start** to join

We'll send you a message when there's heavy rain so you know when to Wait...

And we'll send you another message when it's all clear.

You can opt out at any time.