

EXPLORE THE SCIENCE

WHAT ARE BIOSOLIDS?

Every time you flush, something happens that most people never see. Wastewater goes to a treatment facility, gets cleaned, and what's left behind becomes **a nutrient-rich resource that can rebuild soil** instead of filling a landfill.



THE SHORT ANSWER

Biosolids are the treated, nutrient-rich organic material produced when wastewater is cleaned. They're regulated by the EPA, tested before use, and applied to land to return nutrients to soil.

01

WASTEWATER ARRIVES

Water from homes and businesses enters a treatment facility. Solids are separated from liquid.

02

TREATMENT & TESTING

Solids undergo digestion, stabilization, and pathogen reduction to meet EPA Part 503 standards.

03

BENEFICIAL REUSE

Finished biosolids are applied to farmland, forests, or reclamation sites - returning nutrients to the soil.

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Nature doesn't create waste - it creates cycles. Biosolids close the loop by returning what we flush back to the land as **a beneficial resource that meets today's regulatory standards.**

WHY IT MATTERS

~50%

OF U.S. BIOSOLIDS
BENEFICIALLY REUSED EACH YEAR

8

STATES & D.C. ACROSS THE
MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Class A & B

EPA QUALITY CLASSIFICATIONS
BASED ON TREATMENT

SORTING FACT FROM FICTION

MYTH *Biosolids are just sewage spread on fields.*

FACT Biosolids are the result of multi-stage wastewater treatment, including digestion, stabilization, and pathogen reduction. They are tested and regulated under federal and state law before application.

MYTH *Biosolids are unregulated.*

FACT The EPA's 40 CFR Part 503 rule sets strict standards for pathogens, metals, and application practices. State agencies add their own requirements on top.

MYTH *If we didn't use biosolids, the problem would just disappear.*

FACT Wastewater is generated every day. Without beneficial reuse, the alternative is sending more material to landfills or incinerators - increasing cost, emissions, and pressure on local communities.

LEARN MORE

EXPLORE THE FULL STORY

mabiosolids.info

SOURCES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 40 CFR Part 503 - Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge. · National Biosolids Data Project. · Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association member utility data.