

# HELP KEEP SEWER COSTS DOWN

## Never put these items down the drain!

**Prescription Drugs, Over-The-Counter Medications** - Keep in mind that sewage is treated and recycled, so we want to keep our wastewater as chemical-free as possible. Our wastewater treatment plants were not designed to remove all those chemicals from the water.

**Flushable/disposable Wipes** - Despite the name, "flushable" products really aren't flushable and can cause backups in the sewer system. Also called "disposable," the products that include rags and paper towels get caught on roots and clog pumps in the sewer system and are among the leading causes of blockages, resulting in possible spills and backups. So, instead of flushing them down the toilet, dispose of them in the trash.

**Condoms and Dental Floss** - both cause more problems than you'd imagine. They don't biodegrade and can cause pipes to clog by getting snagged on uneven surfaces in the inside of the pipes.

**Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)** - should never be poured down the sink or garbage disposal. FOG sticks to the interior surface of the sewer pipes, hardens over time and eventually may cause sewage to backup and lead to a sewage spill in your home or on our streets. Running hot water as you pour the grease down the drain will not help either. Many people are unaware that pouring hot water and detergent down the drain only breaks up grease temporarily. The best way to get rid of FOG is to let it cool/harden, mix it with other absorbent materials, place it in a bag or container and then throw it in the trash.

**Food** - should not be flushed down the sink. The best way to get rid of food is to compost what you can and wipe or scrape the remnants in the trash. Use a drain screen in your sink to catch any remaining bits of food as you wash the dishes. Use your garbage disposal sparingly. Using the drain as a dump will have unforeseen consequences of clogging sewer lines and possible backups in your home.

**Coffee grounds and eggshells** - should be properly disposed of in the trash. Never put them in the garbage disposal. Crushed eggshells and coffee grounds can also be used for making garden compost.

**Hair** - always seems to make its way past the plug. Hair will catch and stick to other items and is very difficult to get out of piping once it gets in. Keep hair from going into the pipes by using a fine drain screen to catch hair in your bathtub and shower and dispose of it properly in the trash.

**Household hazardous materials** - such as motor oil, pesticides, paint and solvents should never be poured down the drain. All of these are highly toxic and will cause long term damage to the environment. Dispose of these items by contacting the nearest household hazardous waste collection center where these and other household items can be dropped off. If there is just a little unused paint left, put the can in a safe place (inaccessible to children, pets, or ignition sources) and remove the lid so the remaining contents can dry out. Once the contents have dried out, replace the lid and dispose of the can in the trash or recycler.

**Protect our sewers and environment!**

