

Items you should not flush or put down the drain.

Fats, oils and grease

Fats, oils and grease should never be poured down the sink, garbage disposal or toilet. These items will stick to the interior surface of sewer pipes and harden over time. Eventually this will cause sewer backup which could spill into your home or out onto the street. Contrary to popular belief, running hot water as you pour the grease down the drain will not help. Pouring hot water and detergent down the drain will only break up grease temporarily. It will never fully rid your pipes of the problem. Instead, pour your fats, oils and grease into a can such as a coffee can or soup can. Keep the can in your fridge until it hardens and then you can dispose of it in the trash.

Bathroom Wipes

Some bathroom wipes are advertised as flushable but are still not a good idea to send down the pipes. Other products that should not be flushed include facial tissues, baby wipes, diapers, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, make-up pads, various medical products, condoms and dental floss. Such products are made of materials that do not break down easily and can cause sewer pipes to clog. Even if these items make it past your home's pipes, they can still cause blockages in the city sewer main or cause city pumps to fail. A trash can is the best place for these items.

Food

Food should never be sent down the sink drain. It is recommended that you use a drain screen in your sink to catch bits of food while you rinse off dishes. Letting bits of food down your drain could clog your sewer lines and cause backup in your home. If you have a garbage disposal, use it sparingly, and never as a substitute for the trash can. Grease and food should always be scrapped into a can or the trash. You should be especially careful with pasta, potatoes and other starchy foods, as starch combined with water makes up a paste, which can plug your pipes. Another option you may choose to do with your food waste is to compost what you can, and then scrape any remnants into the trash.

Kitty litter

Never dump kitty litter down the drain as many of these products contain clay. When the clay gets wet it can build up and narrow the opening of your sewer pipe and may eventually plug your sewer pipe.

Hair

Hair seems to always find its way to your drain. Once past the plug, hair always seems to catch on, and stick to, other items or buildup in sewer pipes. It can be very difficult to get out of piping once it gets in. To keep hair from going down the drain, you should use a fine drain screen to catch the hair and then dispose of it in the trash.

Household hazardous materials

Materials such as motor oil, pesticides, paint and solvents should never be poured down the drain. All of these materials are toxic and will cause long term damage to the environment. They should be disposed of by contacting the nearest household hazardous waste collection facility where these, and other household items can be dropped off. If you have a small amount of unused paint in a can you can take the

lid off and set it in a safe place away from pets, children or ignition sources, and let it dry out before replacing the lid and throwing it in the trash.

Sewer pipe cleaning chemicals

Chemicals such as Draino, CLR and Liquid Plumber should be used carefully and sparingly. You should follow label instructions closely to avoid inhaling dangerous fumes, skin and eye injury and pipe and fixture damage. However, proper care and watching what goes down your drains, will decrease the need for the use of these chemicals.

Prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications

Prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications contain chemicals we don't want entering the wastewater supply. In most places, sewage is treated, recycled and released back into the environment so we want to be sure to keep our wastewater as chemical-free as possible. Our waste water treatment plant is not designed to remove all of these chemicals from the water. The best way to dispose of items like these is to bring them to your local pharmacy or hospital. Every city/town is different so be sure to call these places first to find out for sure who can take and dispose of unused or outdated medications.

Trees

Never plant trees over your sewer service line. Tree roots are the leading cause of service line blockages. Grease, food waste, and other large objects as mentioned above are more likely to build up on the tree roots and cause a blockage.