

Items and Substances That Must Never Be Flushed or Poured Into Drains

To protect the community's wastewater infrastructure, prevent sewer blockages, and safeguard local waterways, residents are reminded that only **human waste and toilet paper** may be flushed. The following items must **never** be disposed of in toilets, sinks, floor drains, or storm drains:

1. **Personal Hygiene Products**
 - Baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, and "flushable" wipes (THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS FLUSHABLE WIPES!!!!)
 - Paper towels, tissues, and napkins
 - Feminine hygiene products (tampons, applicators, pads)
 - Cotton balls, cotton swabs, and dental floss
2. **Household Waste and Plastics**
 - Disposable diapers and training pants
 - Rubber gloves and latex products
 - Plastic wrappers, packaging, or bags
 - Cleaning cloths, sponges, and scrub pads
3. **Medications and Pharmaceuticals**
 - Prescription or over-the-counter medications
 - Vitamins and supplements
 - Medical sharps, syringes, and lancets (must follow approved disposal protocols)
4. **Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)**
 - Cooking grease, lard, and shortening
 - Meat drippings or oily food waste
 - Butter, margarine, and salad oils
 - Grease-soaked paper towels or absorbent materials
5. **Hazardous and Chemical Substances**
 - Paints, stains, varnishes, and paint thinners
 - Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers
 - Automotive fluids (motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid, brake fluid)
 - Cleaning chemicals, solvents, and corrosive substances
 - Pool chemicals or water treated with high chemical concentrations
6. **Non-Biodegradable Materials**
 - Dental picks, plastic swabs, and disposable razors
 - Rubber bands, twist ties, and small plastic items
 - Kitty litter (including "flushable" varieties)
 - Fabric scraps, string, and yarn
7. **Food Waste**
 - Coffee grounds, tea leaves, and food scraps
 - Eggshells, rice, pasta, and bread products (expand and clog lines)
 - Bones, pits, and produce peelings
8. **Environmental Contaminants (Storm Drains)**
 - Yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, or soil

- Garbage or recycling materials
 - Car wash runoff containing detergent
 - Construction materials such as cement, plaster, grout, or debris
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Why This Matters

Improper disposal can cause:

- Sewer backups into homes and businesses
 - Clogged pipes and costly repairs
 - Environmental contamination in rivers, lakes, and groundwater
 - Increased operational costs for wastewater treatment services
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Proper Disposal Alternatives

- Use curbside trash and recycling services
- Take household chemicals to approved hazardous waste collection sites
- Allow grease to cool and place it in a sealed container for disposal
- Return unused medications to authorized take-back locations
- Compost appropriate food and yard waste