

Public Service Announcement to Prevent Sewer Backups in the Home

The majority of sewer back-ups into a home are caused from improper disposal of waste into toilets and drains. The following items should NOT be discarded into toilets or drains: fats, oils, or grease from cooking, solid food particles, diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, and paper towels. These items do not break down in the sewer pipes and will cause back-ups into homes. The improper disposal of these items will create serious maintenance and health issues for the homeowner and also for the public wastewater collection and treatment systems.

When fats, oils, or grease are poured down a sink, these products will solidify once they have cooled down in the sewer pipes and will cause a blockage. If you think running hot water in the sink will help disperse this matter, you're wrong! Hot water may get this matter out of your sink drain, but as soon as the water cools down, these products will solidify in your sewer pipes. This build-up will restrict flow and accumulate in the pipes, where in combination with other materials that shouldn't be flushed will cause sewerage to back up into a home and often cause blockages in the main sewer system located in the street.

Residents should be aware that some of these products are labeled as "Flushable", are only assumed to be. A vast majority of these products do not break down in the same manner as toilet paper and create problems in households and the collection system, pumping stations, and wastewater treatment facilities.