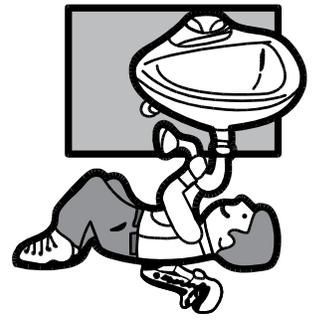


Don't Flush That!!



NO!!



- cat and pet waste
- paper towels
- “flushable” wipes
- feminine hygiene products
- disposable diapers
- dental floss
- hair from the shower and sink drains
- grease and cooking oils
- food waste – even if you DO have a garbage disposer
- expired medicines and drugs
- paint & chemicals
- oil & gas
- pesticides and herbicides
- plastic of any form – including bandaids
- cigarettes and tobacco products of any form
- cloth – it doesn't matter if it's natural cotton or wool!

YES!!

- Human waste
- toilet paper





Out of Sight, Out of Mind

That's a comforting thought whenever we're cleaning up in the kitchen or using the bathroom. A quick whirl of the garbage disposal, a fast flush of the toilet, and whatever we were dealing with is gone, never to be seen again. It's a nice theory. Too bad it's **ONLY** a theory.

In reality, whatever we put down the drain has to go **SOMEWHERE** while it (we hope!) breaks down and decomposes. It either lands in the municipal sewer and waste treatment plant or, if you live in the country, in your septic system. Whatever you put down the drain has to:

- go through the sewer without clogging it
- decompose safely and quickly

Experts tell us that we should only put two things down a toilet - human waste (of course) and toilet paper. Nothing else, and they **DO** mean **nothing** else. No paper towels, no so-called 'flushable' wipes, no diapers, no grease, no cooking oils or food materials, no expired medicines, no chemicals, paints, automotive oils... nothing but human waste and toilet paper.

The story is similar in the kitchen. Never **never** put oils and fat down your drain. Running hot water as you pour fat and oil down the sink does nothing to help. That hot water hits the cold drain pipes, and the fats and oils it is carrying quickly cool down and congeal into a drain-clogging mess.

Even if you **do** have a garbage disposal, be **very** careful what organic matter you put down your drain. Disposals are awfully convenient, and we all love them. And they can certainly make organic material disappear from our view! But even if we can't see it, that ground-up food waste is still left in the sewer or septic system, and the more organic material there is present in the system, the harder it is for the natural bacteria to work properly and to eliminate it effectively.

Ideally, you'll use sink strainers to catch as much organic material as you can **BEFORE** it goes down the drain. Whenever the strainer is full, empty it into the garbage or compost it. Use your garbage disposal to eliminate whatever minor amount of food waste escapes the strainers. Your drains will thank you for your efforts!

And if you need any more motivation to be careful what you put down your drains, do an internet search for the phrase "*fatberg, London, England*".