

THINGS YOU SHOULD NEVER PUT INTO YOUR WASTE SYSTEM

The best way to avoid problems with your waste system is to know what NOT to put in it. Most people know that you shouldn't flush any non-biodegradable materials, but there are a lot of everyday things that we use that also should not find their way into your system. If you didn't grow up with a septic system in your home, chances are you are not aware of the risks associated with using these products, so now is your chance to learn.

FOGs

- Fats
- Oils
- Grease

If you avoid putting fats, oils and grease down your drains you will have less maintenance of your system. One way to keep FOGs out of your system is to pour any residual fats, oils or grease from cooking into an old coffee can for disposal instead of down the drain. This is also true of oil from deep fat fryers and turkey fryers. Oils, which can include body oils, hair oils, baby oil and other non-cooking items should be avoided whenever possible and not rinsed directly into the drain. Some hair conditioners and body lotions fall into this category, so learn to be a label reader and look for products that are "SEPTIC-FRIENDLY".

CHEMICALS

We use a lot of chemicals each and every day and don't even realize it. Ammonia in the window cleaner, bleach in the surface cleaners, disinfectants for the toilets - the list goes on. A lot of these household chemicals eventually make their way into our wastewater plant where they can wreak havoc on the natural balance of bacteria and filtration, eventually leading to additional plant management costs, which are passed onto you, the customer. While it is important to keep your home clean and germ-free make sure to choose all natural, chemical free solutions whenever possible and use toilet bowl cleaners sparingly according to the guidelines on the product labels. A good choice of products is all METHOD products. They carry a wide range of products for all surfaces. They smell good and work very well. They are available at TARGET, LOWES & BJ'S.

TOILET TRASH

A lot of people use their toilets as a trash can, flushing things that really have no business being in a toilet. We have already discussed oils, grease, chemicals and additives in your drains, but when it comes to the toilet, some people seem to lose all common sense. Non-biodegradable materials can actually kill off the beneficial bacteria that are used to treat your wastewater. One of the biggest culprits is flushing medication, this should never be done. Please contact your local pharmacy for proper disposal of unused or expired medications. Plastics, disposable diapers (both Adult and Infant), feminine hygiene products, condoms, cat litter (yes, even the stuff that says it's flushable, isn't), pet food and pet waste as well as moistened wipes (baby wipes and adult ones even the ones that say they are flushable-aren't), paper towels and rags....The list goes on!!

POISONOUS MATERIALS

If you have any leftover household chemicals from a renovation project, make sure to dispose of them responsibly. Don't pour them down the drain and don't just throw them in the trashcan. Check with your local Hazardous Waste Collection Center for information and proper disposal of paint; latex paint as well, paint thinner, solvents, any and all latex products and other toxic chemicals that can be dangerous to you and your environment, local landfill as well as your wastewater plant. Other poisonous and toxic chemicals that are dangerous to your wastewater plant, and should never make its way down household drains include antifreeze, pesticides, motor oil and gasoline.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The more you know about your wastewater plant and how they work, the easier it is to properly maintain. This information should be copied and given to each homeowner or renter, as they too need to know how to work with us in our community to better maintain our wastewater plant. The more we do to work within these guidelines, the better our plant will work and the less maintenance it will require. We in turn will have less expenses and our equipment will last longer.

OTHER WAYS TO BE A GOOD STEWARD OF OUR WATER

1. Garbage disposal should be used at a minimum
2. All leaky faucets and toilets should be repaired as soon as possible
3. Add a laundry filter to washing machine – there are mesh ones that attach to your dump hose but an old knee high panty hose works just as well
4. Do not use harsh drain openers. If you experience a clog use a 1:1:1 ratio of salt, baking soda and vinegar. Follow solution with boiling water and use a drain snake to clear the clogs.
5. Baking soda does a beautiful job on cleaning and stain removal of stainless steel sinks and it's environmentally friendly. Vinegar is also another good choice for cleaning and disinfecting.
6. Antibacterial soaps and bleach actually inhibit the enzymatic action required for the bacterial breakdown of solids in your waste system
7. DO put kitchen trash into a compost or throw it in the trash – NOT down your drains

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in these matters. Following this advice will save our community money and will provide you with a safer and chemically free environment.