

PROTECT YOUR SEWER

Know what NOT to flush!



Did you know that all the “used” water in your home goes through your wastewater (sewer) pipes? Whatever you “flush” down the **toilet, sink, garbage disposal, or dishwasher** all combines together.

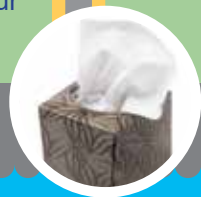
Flushing the wrong things — things not designed to break down or be handled through the wastewater

system — can cause debris to build up in pipes and eventually create a sewer backup — an expensive health hazard for you, and possibly your neighbors!

You can protect your home’s sewer pipes and the public system by being careful about what you flush.



Everything flushed through your plumbing system ends up in the same place — your sewer line.



Flushed oils and grease cool and congeal. Flushed debris builds up. Over time, sewer flow is blocked, which can result in a sewer backup.

WHAT SHOULD YOU FLUSH?

Basically, 2 things (besides water):

- Toilet paper and
- Human waste

Flushing anything else tempts trouble — not just for your home, but for the public system and the environment as well.

WHAT NOT TO FLUSH:

These are some of the WORST sewer culprits:

- Disposable wipes — any kind, even if labeled “flushable.” Wipes don’t break down in the sewer line. These have become one of the #1 causes of sewer backups.
- F.O.G. (fats, oils and grease) — cooking oil and grease flushed through the sink or dishwasher, or greasy scraps sent through the garbage disposal. F.O.G. cools and congeals down the line, sticking to pipes.
- Feminine sanitary products — tampons, applicators or pads
- Diapers or nursing pads
- Dental floss
- Paper towels or tissues
- Hair
- Cotton balls or Q-tips
- Condoms

Do your sewer a favor: Always put these (and any other waste items) in the trash — not down your toilet or drain!

SEWER CARE FAQs: WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH...

F.O.G. WASTE:

Common sources of F.O.G. waste include:

- Oil from cooked meats and fish
- Gravies, sauces and soups
- Cooking oil, butter, shortening, lard and margarine
- Milk, cream, sour cream and mayonnaise
- Oily or greasy food scraps



Did you know?

50% of sewage overflows are caused by improper disposal of F.O.G.

Help keep our city's sewer system clean by using these safe disposal tips.

DISPOSING OF F.O.G. PROPERLY:

1 Scrape & wipe before washing

Keep F.O.G. out of pipes by pre-wiping dishes with your napkin — you can compost scraps and food-soiled paper.

2 Avoid garbage disposals — use a strainer

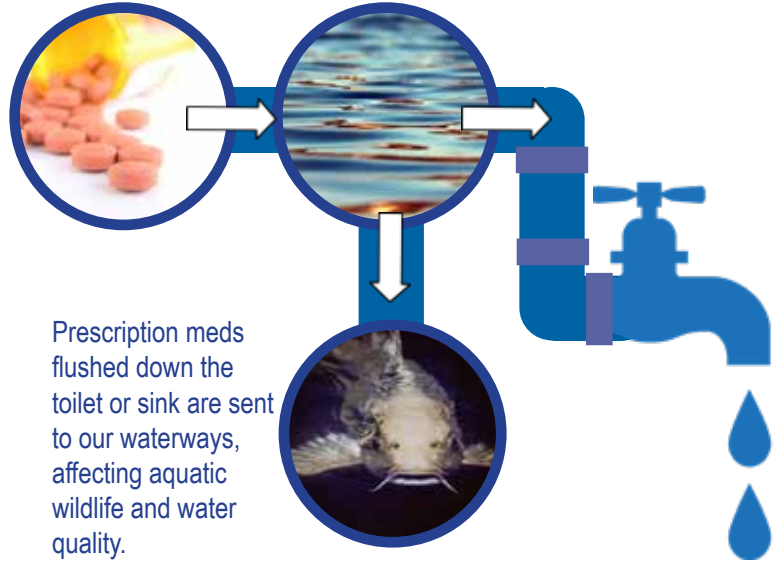
Catch oily, greasy and starchy food waste before it enters your pipes — you can compost scraps.

3 For heavy grease: COOL IT — CAN IT — TRASH IT

Pour cooled fats, oils, and grease into a container with a lid and place in the trash or compost.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS:

Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove medications. Flushed medications can affect our region's aquatic life — and our water and food quality.



Prescription meds flushed down the toilet or sink are sent to our waterways, affecting aquatic wildlife and water quality.

To flush meds properly, use a designated disposal site.

Instead of flushing medications down your toilet or drain, use a safe medicine disposal box. A medicine disposal box is available at the Bartlesville Police Department, 615 S. Johnstone Ave. Many health care centers also make these available.

Visit www.medicinereturn.org to find other locations near you.



CLEANING PRODUCTS, CHEMICALS & OTHER HOUSEHOLD WASTES:



Whatever you pour down the drain enters our waterways and water environment.

Don't flush liquid chemicals like bleach, cleaning fluids or paint thinners down the sink or toilet. Learn how to dispose of common household wastes safely at: <https://www.cityofbartlesville.org/city-services/wastewatersewer>.

Be sure to also check out Operation Clean House, a local nonprofit which hosts a hazardous waste disposal event each year. Find them on Facebook at "Operation Clean House" for tips and announcements regarding the annual event.