The Bureau of Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment.

We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.

We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Dean Marriott, Director

1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000
Portland, Oregon 97204

For disability accommodation requests:
Call 503-823-7740, TTY 503-823-6868
Oregon Relay Service 1-800-735-2900

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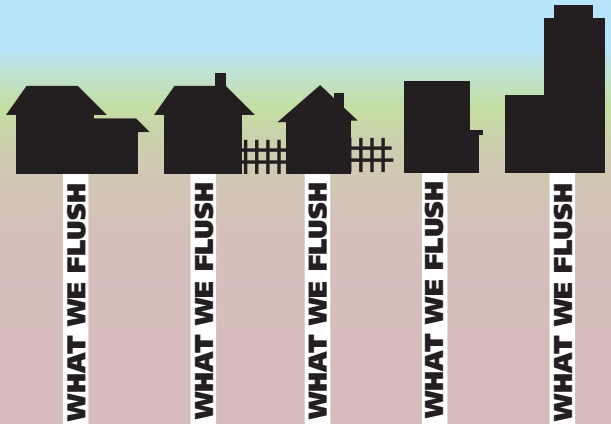

MATTERS

Many things routinely flushed down the toilet or washed down the drain can damage the sewer system, cause sewer backups in homes, and sewage releases to the environment.

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Sewers are designed to carry water, human waste and toilet paper, period.

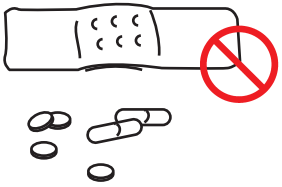
Toilet paper dissolves quickly in water. Products advertised as flushable may flush, but they don't completely dissolve. Wipes, diapers, cat litter and other so-called flushable products can not only block the pipe that connects your home to the sewer system, they can also block city sewer pipes and damage pumping equipment.

Blocked pipes can cause sewer backups in homes and releases from the city sewer. Flushing these products can threaten public health and the environment and increase sewer system maintenance and repair costs:

- cleaning wipes of any kind
- disposable diapers

- nursing pads
- cotton balls, swabs and pads

- facial tissue
- unused medications (put original containers in a plastic, zip-lock bag and throw the bag in the trash)
- bandages and bandage wrappings

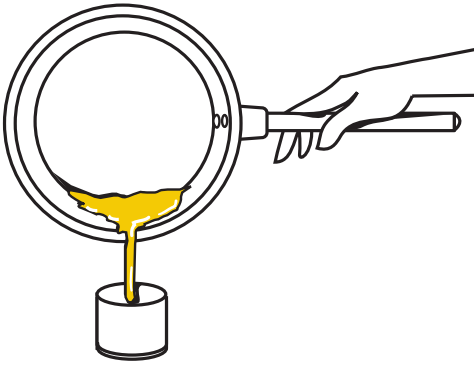


your sink drains

Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG)

Fats, oil and grease from cooking can build up inside pipes and clog sewers. Here are some ways you can help keep grease out of sewers:

- Minimize garbage disposal use.
- Scrape food scraps into the compost bin.
- Put a strainer in the sink drain to catch food scraps and throw scraps into the compost bin.



- Pour grease into steel cans, let it harden and throw the can into the trash.

for more information

www.portlandonline.com/bes/whatnottoflush
www.portlandonline.com/bes/grease