

Fats, oil and grease from cooking are also bad for sewers. They can build up inside pipes and cause sewer backups and overflows. Here are some ways to prevent that from happening:

- Stop using your garbage disposal or don't use it as much.
- Put a strainer in the sink drain to catch food scraps. Compost them or throw them in the garbage.
- Pour grease into steel cans, let it harden and throw the can into the trash.

Get more information and tips at www.portlandoregon.gov/ bes/grease.

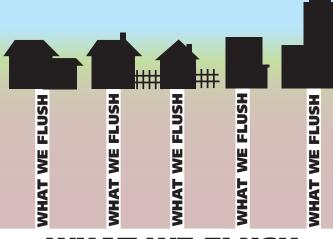




The Bureau of Environmental Services works with Portland residents and businesses to protect water quality, public health, and the environment through wastewater collection and treatment, sewer construction and maintenance, stormwater management, and stream and watershed restoration. Learn more at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes

The City of Portland complies with all non-discrimination laws including Title VI (Civil Rights) and Title II (ADA). To request a translation, accommodation or additional information, please call 503-823-7740, or use City TTY

503-823-6868, or Oregon Relay Service: 711.



WHAT WE FLUSH

Many things often flushed down toilets or poured down drains can damage sewers, cause backups in homes, and release sewage to the environment.





ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CITY OF PORTLAND

working for clean rivers

Nick Fish, Commissioner | Dean Marriott, Director

Lots of products are advertised as flushable-

that doesn't mean they should be flushed

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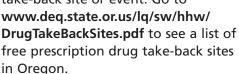
Human waste and toilet paper are the only things we should flush down a toilet. Lots of products billed as flushable can cause problems in your home and in our sewer system.

Toilet paper dissolves rapidly in water.
Cleaning wipes, disposable diapers and other supposedly flushable products dissolve very slowly or not at all. These products are a common cause of blocked sewer pipes and damaged pumping equipment. They can

jeopardize human health by causing sewer backups in basements and overflows into streets and streams. And sewer ratepayers end up footing the bill for sewer system repairs and maintenance.

Unused Medications

Do not flush unused medications down the toilet. You can safely dispose of medications in the garbage, or take medications to an approved prescription drug take-back site or event. Go to



Do NOT Flush

Here is a list of some of things we should definitely not flush:

- Odisposable diapers
- **S** tampons and tampon applicators
- sanitary napkins
- Ocotton balls and swabs
- mini or maxi pads
- **O** condoms
- any kind of cleaning wipe
- Sbandages and bandage wrappings
- **Q**automotive fluids
- opaint, solvents, sealants and thinners
- Opoisons and hazardous waste

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Go to

www.portlandoregon.gov/ bes/WhatNotToFlush

to view the "What Not to Flush" video to see what we're talking about.