

To Flush or Not to Flush?

It's a delicate subject, but this is the truth: Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down your toilet. However, our wastewater treatment professionals find a wide variety of items in our sewers and collection facilities, including cell phones, toys, cue-balls, marbles, and diapers. How did these end up in our collection system?

The following is a short list of materials that should never be disposed of in kitchen and bathroom sinks, or down your toilet. Unlike toilet paper, which breaks down quickly in water, wet wipes (Rags) remain intact and tangle into massive clogs that jam pumps and block pipes. Even those labeled "**flushable**" should not be flushed.

Here's a list of a few other items that need to be thrown in the trash:

- Toys, or anything made of plastic
- Paper towels
- Cat litter
- Diapers
- Cigarette butts
- Disposable toilet brushes
- Tampons



Fats, Rags, Oils, and Grease (FROG)

When Fats, Rags, Oils, and Grease (F.R.O.G.) are sent down drains, they can build up in pipes and cause backups in homes, streets, and the sewer system. Fats, Oils, and Grease come from meats, butters and margarine, lard, food scraps, sauces, salad dressings, dairy products, and cooking oil. When these items are introduced down the drain, it hardens and causes sewer pipes to clog. This can lead to a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) where raw sewage actually backs up into your home, lawn, neighborhood, and streets.

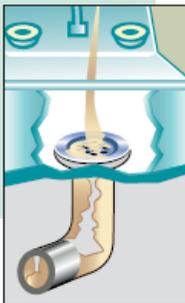
In addition to the costly repairs, sewer backups pose a serious public health threat. Pouring grease down the garbage disposal and then running hot water and grease-fighting detergent to wash it down does not remove grease from the plumbing system. Hot water cools down in pipes causing fats and grease to thicken, creating blockages further down the pipeline.

A useful tip is to freeze small amounts of fats, oils and grease in a container with a tight sealing lid and dispose of them in the trash. You can also mix cooking oil with an absorbent material, such as car litter or coffee grounds, and place in a tightly sealed container before disposing, or scrape and wipe excess grease from pans and dishes with a paper towel and dispose in the trash receptacle before washing. Another solution: allow fat, oils and grease to harden in a can or carton and then dispose of it in your garbage.

Baby wipes, flushable wipes, and disinfecting wipes (Rags) are becoming a National problem with Sanitary Sewer Systems. According to the Department of Environmental Protection, Toilet paper disintegrates almost immediately, but the strong-fiber wipes wreak havoc on city sewer systems. Clean water agencies across the country are increasingly dealing with problems caused by wipes and other products that do not break down quickly in the sewer system. The City of Tega Cay request that you dispose of these wipes properly in your trash receptacle rather than flushing them and allowing them to enter the collection system.



By putting Fats, Rags, Oils, and Grease down the drain ...



FROG builds up inside pipes and can cause a complete blockage.



Clogged pipes overflow in your home and in the environment ...



resulting in Increased cost to residents due to repair and maintenance costs.

For questions on helping prevent a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) and how to properly dispose of Fats, Rags, Oils, and grease please contact the City of Tega Cay Utility Department during our normal business hours at (803) 548-3514.

Office Hours Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM- 5:00 PM
After-hours Emergency Contact: (803) 548-3514