

What you discard down the drain may end up in your drinking water! Sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities are only designed to handle water, human waste, and toilet paper. Anything else that goes down the drain can damage both the systems and the environment. Before you dump something, think: ***Should this go down the drain?*** Always remember that the water we have now is the only water we will ever have.

WHAT ARE THE WORST THINGS TO DUMP?

According to wastewater treatment facilities....



WIPES – Wipes do not break down the same way as toilet paper. When flushed, they catch other materials and clog sewer pipes, which creates masses of trash and waste. Even “flushable” wipes can cause these problems!

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS – Household products such as cleaners, pesticides, and paint all contain chemicals that cannot be removed during the water treatment process, so the chemicals can remain in the water when it is discharged. If possible, use bio-degradable, plant-based cleaning agents.




FATS, OILS, GREASE (FOGS) – FOGs such as cooking grease, motor oil, and animal fats solidify and build up in pipes when they are washed down the drain. Eventually, they can completely clog the sewer systems. Instead, pour FOGs into a container to solidify, then throw the container away.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD NEVER GO DOWN THE DRAIN?

In addition to wipes, household chemicals, and FOGs, these are other commonly discarded items that do not belong down the drain:

- 💧 Medicine
- 💧 Paper towels
- 💧 Kitty Litter
- 💧 Feminine products
- 💧 Hair
- 💧 Cigarette butts
- 💧 Food wrappers
- 💧 Plastic
- 💧 Diapers
- 💧 Dental floss
- 💧 Disposable toilet brushes



Even if it claims to be "flushable", throw it away!

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DRAINS IF YOU DO?

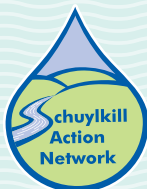
Blockages caused by wipes, FOGs and other materials cause sewage blockages, costing cities and homeowners hundreds of man hours and millions of dollars each year.

Chemicals and medications are often not removed in the wastewater treatment process, so the water is still contaminated when it is discharged into the environment. It contaminates the drinking water people depend on. It also can poison wildlife and affect their reproductive process.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO INSTEAD?

- 💧 Dispose of waste in the appropriate recycling or trash container.
- 💧 Take expired medication, unwanted motor oil, paint, and other household products to collection or recycling locations. Look for disposal locations on your state or municipality website.
- 💧 Collect grease in containers and wait for it to cool and harden, then throw it away.
- 💧 Reduce garbage disposal use and wipe off food particles before washing dishes.



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