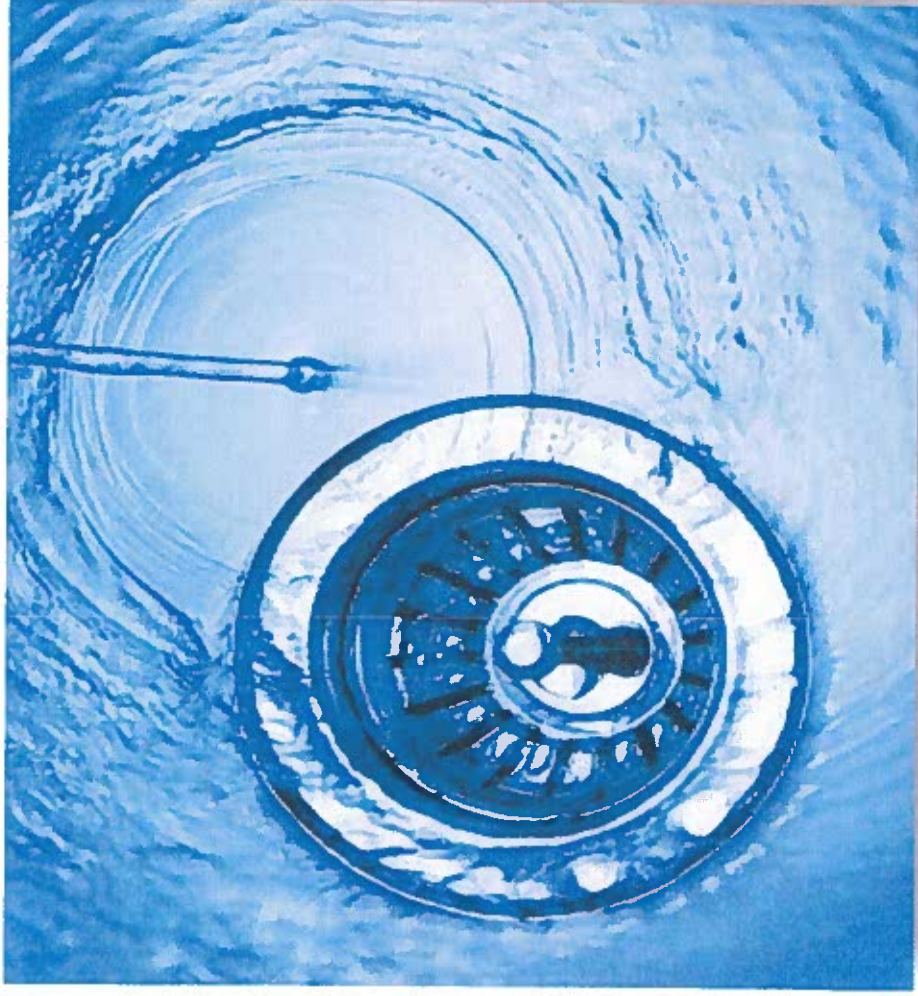


**Before you flush it or put it down
the drain . . .**



What are the risks?



Domestic sewage pipes are typically only 4 inches in diameter, and when these pipes are misused, the result can be sewer blockages that reduce the efficiency of the system and add to the problem of sewage outflow from the system.

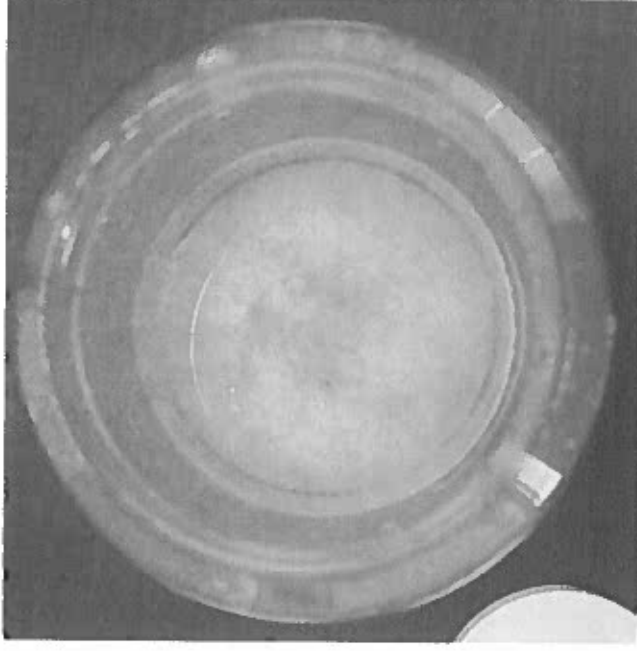
This type of situation can put many homes at risk for sewage flooding, and at risk for polluting our local waters.

To flush or not to flush?

It says flushable on the box, so why shouldn't you put it in the toilet?

"Flushable" means just that, it can go down the toilet. But once it's out of sight, that's when the trouble begins.

The only things appropriate to put in the toilet are toilet paper and human waste. Other things just don't break down as they should. This first picture shows toilet paper that immediately dissolves. The wipes in the bottom picture still hadn't even begun to break down after four days.



Do not flush:

- Sanitary napkins
- Disposable diapers
- Liners
- Baby / Cleaning wipes
- Cleaning products
- Razors
- Contraception
- Cotton balls, Q-tips
- Toothbrushes
- Contact lenses
- Paper towels
- Grease, kitchen fat
- Colostomy bags
- Bandages
- Syringes, needles
- Medicines
- Toys
- Clothing
- Dental floss
- Cigarette butts
- Shop towels
- Paint

Proper Disposal

Cooking Fat:

Allow the fat to cool and solidify, then scrape it out, wrap it in newspaper or tin foil and dispose of it in your trash bin. Alternatively, pour it into a plastic container and when it has cooled dispose of it in your trash bin.

Sanitary napkins, tampons and panty liners:

Wrap item well and dispose of them in your trash bin. Special disposal bags are available at some pharmacies and supermarkets. In public restrooms, please place items in the sanitary bins provided.

Used bandages:

Wrap items well and dispose of them in your trash bin.

Diapers, liners and wipes:

Dispose of in your trash bin. Wrap diapers and liners.

Diaper disposal bags are available at supermarkets and pharmacies.

Razor blades:

To avoid injury, place used blades in a solid container *before* putting them in the trash bin.

Medicines:

Check with your local pharmacy to see if they take back unused medicines or contact your local law enforcement center or hospital to find out when the next drug take back day is scheduled.

Used syringes and needles:

Needles and syringes must be packaged in a container that is rigid, leak-proof when in an upright position and puncture resistant. The package then may be disposed of with general solid waste.

Other liquids like gasoline, antifreeze, solvents, etc.

Contact WASTEC at (910) 798-4400 to find out when the next household hazardous waste collection day will be held.

Aggressive outreach, cleaning and maintenance is required to try to avoid costly sewer system overflows caused by backups caused by grease and other materials introduced into the sewer collection system.



Sewage flooding presents a health risk to humans and wildlife, as well as looking unsightly.

When drains and sewers are misused this way, we all pay the price for cleaning the sewers, removal of blockages and cleaning up the rivers, homes and land affected by sewer flooding.



Paper products and wipes filtered out of a wastewater pump station.

**think about how it
could end up
in our
environment.**



Our sewage collection system, made up of pump stations, lines and treatment facilities, was designed to treat and process human waste, gray water (from showers and other washing) and toilet tissue.

Other materials, like fat / oil / grease, sanitary items, and non-biodegradable 'flushable' items can lead to big problems including sewer backups in your home or sewer system overflows that end up in our storm drains and water bodies.