

# WHAT NOT TO FLUSH OR POUR DOWN THE DRAIN

Many items we use on a daily basis cannot go down our toilets or drains. Several products, even those labelled “flushable,” do not dissolve. This can cause:

- Damage or blockages to your home plumbing, which could lead to basement flooding
- Damage to the Town’s sewer pipes, which could lead to basement flooding
- Harm to the environment and aquatic habitat in the local streams, rivers and lakes.

To help keep the entire sewage system working well, please do not flush or put the following products down the drain.

## HYGIENE PRODUCTS

The top hygiene products that should not be flushed are:

- Wipes of any kind (bathroom, baby and cleaning wipes) even those that say flushable can cause problems
- Tampons and sanitary supplies
- Condoms
- Cotton swabs
- Dental floss
- Hair
- Facial tissue
- Paper towels

## Fat, Oil & Grease

When warm fats, oils and grease are washed down the sink or toilet into the plumbing system they cool, harden and stick to the insides of sewer pipes. Over time, the grease will build up and can block the entire pipe – both on your property and on Town property.

Where fat, oil & grease can be found:

- Meats and bacon drippings
- Lards, shortening, cooking oil, butter and margarine
- Food scraps and baking goods
- Sauces, salad dressings and gravy
- Dairy products (milk and cream)
- Soups
- Sandwich spreads

**What can you do to help prevent sewer system blockages:**

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets
- Do not put baskets/strainers into sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids. Empty the drain basket/strainer into the garbage for disposal

**How to dispose of fat, oil and grease safely:**

- Let the grease cool and harden, then scrape it, along with food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills, and cooking surfaces into your garbage
- Small volumes of liquid cooking oil can be placed in the garbage if the oil can be absorbed by the other organic materials or paper towels
- Larger amounts should be collected into a sealed container and placed in the garbage

**Medication**

As a result of better measurement instruments and techniques, traces of pharmaceuticals are being detected in the environment. One way this is happening is by consumers flushing medication, such as pills and liquids, down the toilet or sink. This can harm the environment and aquatic wildlife.

**How to dispose of medication safely:**

- Return it to your local pharmacy. They will take it for free and dispose of it properly

**Household Hazardous Waste**

The following hazardous waste should never be flushed down the drain:

- Car and garage products (antifreeze, motor oil, windshield washer fluid)
- Household cleaning products (cleaners, bleach, disinfectants)
- Paints (including any solvent, remover or glue)
- Personal care products (nail polish remover, perfumes, aftershave)
- Pesticides and garden products

**How to dispose of these items safely**

- Many auto repair shops will take used motor oil and send it for recycling
- All others should be placed in sealed containers and placed in the garbage unless there is a hazardous waste collection day in the area