

What Doesn't Belong in the Sanitary Sewer?



The Sanitary Sewer Collection System is designed to carry wastewater away from your house to the Regional Water Pollution Control Plant where it can be safely and effectively cleaned. However, if something goes into the sanitary sewer lines that shouldn't be there, sewage backups and pollution can occur.

Sewage backups can also be caused by too much stormwater entering the sanitary sewer system, roots that penetrate pipe joints and by FOG (fats, oils and grease) that can build up and cause blockages. NEVER pour FOG down the drain. As it cools, it will congeal, clogging pipes.

While the Authority cleans and maintains the sanitary sewer system in the public right of way, the maintenance of sewer pipes on a homeowner's property is the responsibility of the homeowner. Keeping your lines clear of roots, run-off and FOG will minimize sewage backups from occurring and protect our environment.



Fats, Oils and Grease

NEVER pour Fats, Oils or Grease (FOG) down the drain - as it cools, it will clog your sewer pipes and lead to sewer backups in your house or in the sanitary sewer collection system.

Pour hot fats, oils and grease into a can. After it has cooled and solidified, you can put it out in the trash.



Run-off

Water from gutters, sump pumps and uncapped sewer clean-outs can get into the sanitary sewer, resulting in millions of gallons of excess flow that must be then treated.

Disconnect any downspout or sump pump connected to the sanitary sewer and redirect them into your yard. Make sure your sewer clean-outs are securely capped.



Roots

Tiny tree roots will search out nutrient and moisture rich sanitary sewer lines. Once they get into a pipe, they continue growing until the pipe is clogged.

Don't plant trees and large shrubs near your sanitary sewer pipes to minimize the chance that you will have a back-up caused by roots.



Medications

Traces of prescription and over-the-counter medications flushed or poured down the drain can make their way to our nation's waterways.

Don't pour medications down the drain. Instead crush the pills, mix the crushed pills or liquid medicine with coffee grounds or kitty litter, place in a double layered sealed bag and dispose of it in the trash.



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