



Discharge into Sewer Systems

What goes
down your drain?



Anyone who uses a sewer system needs to be responsible for what they flush or pour down the drain, because flushing the wrong materials can damage the sewer system, cause sewer backups in your home, and release toxins to the environment.

The only substances that should ever be flushed down the toilet are human waste and toilet paper.

SO, DO NOT FLUSH:

- **Fats, Oils, and Grease:** they build up on inside of pipes and sewer pump stations causing decreased flow or blockages, backups, overflows, odour problems eventually damaging the pumps. These maintenance problems increase the cost and energy consumption to operate the treatment facility.
- **Chemicals, Detergents, and Medication:** garden chemicals, paints, and household medications are damaging to the surrounding natural habitat, and toxic to aquatic and marine life.
- **Household Waste** like flushable wipes, disposable clothes of any kind, condoms, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, floor mops, plastic bags and gloves, bandages, dental floss, cigarette butts, coffee grounds will clump together causing blockages in the pipes, which have to be manually removed; they can sink to the bottom of tanks and get caught in the pump's impellers causing damage to the pumps. Blockages in the pipes can lead to overflowing and damage to the sewage treatment facility or underground infrastructure, resulting in increased energy and maintenance costs.

- **Flushable Wipes** - Flushable Wipes are NOT flushable! Contrary to advertising, flushable wipes do not readily breakdown in the sewer system and cause clogging and blockage. In 2013, a **15 tonne** ball of grease and flushable wipes was cleared from London, England's sewer system. Grease and wet wipes congeal to form a "Fatberg".

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

Go Green: Use environmentally friendly garden, and cleaning products, and do not allow them to flow into the storm drains.

Recycle: Used vegetable oil can be dropped off in sealed plastic containers at biodiesel collection depots located at the Bings Creek Recycling Centre, 3900 Drinkwater Road, or in Duncan at the corner of Ingram Street and Canada Avenue, or in Cowichan Bay, in front of the Pier 66 store.

Dispose of Pharmaceutical Drugs and medications safely at local pharmacies.

Dispose of chemicals as directed on the package, and return them to recycling facilities or dispose of them in the garbage, as instructed.

For comprehensive information on how and where to recycle various products and materials visit the **Cowichan Recyclopeda** at www.cvrddrecycles.bc.ca

WHERE DO FOOD SCRAPS GO AFTER THE GARBURATOR?

The CVRD does not encourage the use of kitchen garburators as they increase the amount of organic material in the service lines, which can stick to the lines over time and cause blockages.

In addition, they put unnecessary strain on the sanitary sewer system. Retiring your kitchen garburator means you won't waste energy every time you flip that switch and you won't waste a huge amount of perfectly good drinking water either.



Some organic food waste can be composted in your backyard or kitchen scraps including raw and cooked meat, fish, dairy, grains, vegetables, waxed paper, cartons, boxes, food soiled paper, napkins, pizza boxes, and paper plates can be dropped off at the CVRD's Bings Creek Recycling Centre. 1st 5 gallon pail FREE - then \$3 up to 55lbs.