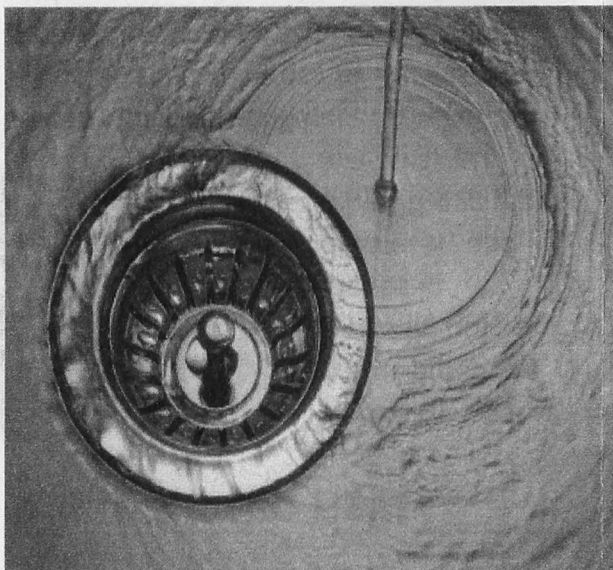




What goes  
down the  
drain...



ends 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 fats/oils/grease, sanitary items, and 'flushable' items that are not biodegradable when flushed or put down the drain or garbage disposal 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.

## Do not flush:

Sanitary napkins	Paper towels
Disposable diapers	Rags or towels
Liners	Grease, kitchen fat
Tampons	Colostomy bags
Wipes	Bandages
Razors	Syringes, needles
Condoms	Medicines
Cotton balls, Q-tips	Toys
Toothbrushes	Kitty Litter
Contact lenses	Dental floss
Facial tissues	Cigarette butts

*Toilets are Not Trashcans!  
Only human waste and toilet paper  
should be flushed.*

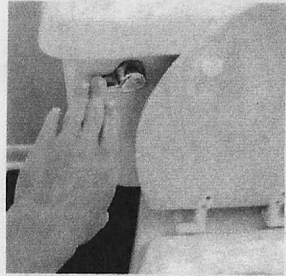
## WIPES CLOG PIPES!

Disposable does not always mean flushable.

Even products labeled "flushable" can clog pipes and get caught in pumps.

*Thanks to the City of Millbrae, California Water Pollution Control Plant and the city of Cape Fear Public Utility Authority of Wilmington, Delaware for graphics and layout.*

## What are the risks?



Domestic wastewater pipes are typically only 4 inches in diameter, and when these pipes are misused, sewer blockages will occur, therefore reducing the efficiency of the system and adding 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.

Unfortunately, our homes are constantly at risk for flooding from improper disposal of personal items, such as feminine hygiene products, diapers, condoms, grease and fat into the drains and sewer system. Sewage flooding presents health risks to humans and wildlife.

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.

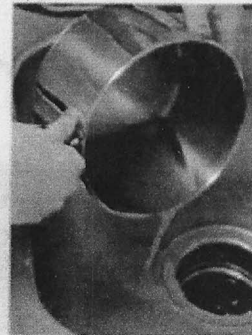
## Food for thought . . .

Most fat that is poured down the drain is in liquid form, but when it hits the cold pipes underground, it tends to harden on the walls of the pipes as it moves through.

A popular myth is that running hot water down the drain will prevent this from occurring, but the ground surrounding the pipe keeps it cool, allowing the fat to cling to the walls of the pipe.

Over a period of weeks or months, the fat will harden within the pipes, eventually causing the pipe to become completely blocked. Sometimes, these blockages can cause sewage to discharge into a river or stream, which is a threat to our environment.

You can help prevent these sewage floods by disposing of feminine hygiene products, diapers, grease and fat with your local waste collection facility and not into drains or down the toilet.



## Proper disposal

### Cooking Fat:

Allow the fat to cool and solidify, then scrape it out, wrap it in newspaper and dispose of it in your clean green 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.

### Condoms, and used bandages:

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

### Diapers, liners and wipes:

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

Contact Spokane Regional Solid Waste System Hotline at (509) 625-6800.