

# Let's Get Sewer Savvy!



Everything that you put down your toilet and household drain ends up in our sewer system.

Flushing non-flushables can cause sewer blockages, damage pipes and treatment systems, backup sewers in your home and result in sewer overflows that harm the environment. This could mean expensive repairs for you, and often, increased operations and maintenance costs to the collection system and wastewater treatment plant.

The only things you should be flushing are human waste and toilet paper!

## What **NOT** to flush or put down the drain:

- baby wipes
- “flushable” wipes
- feminine hygiene products
- bandages and wrappers
- condoms and wrappers
- cotton balls
- swabs and Q-tips
- dental floss
- hair
- diapers
- facial tissue
- hypodermic needles
- medications
- vitamins
- supplements
- cat litter
- chemicals and solvents
- cigarette butts
- food scraps
- coffee grounds
- disposable duster heads
- fruit stickers
- fats, oil and grease
- paint
- papertowels

### Did you **KNOW?**

In 2015, approximately \$50,000 was spent to repair and maintain our sewers due to incompatible materials and “flushable” wipes put down Abbotsford and Mission’s toilets!

## Just because it says “flushable” doesn’t mean it is.

Some everyday items seem safe to flush, but they can cause messy and expensive plumbing problems for you and for our treatment facilities. Personal care and baby wipes, dental floss, cotton balls and paper towels don’t dissolve quickly, or at all, in water. If a bit of undissolved material gets caught on a nick, bend or bump within a pipe it triggers a growth of buildup that could cause a sewer backup in your home.

## Beware of FOG: fats, oils & grease.

Fats, oils and grease are not water soluble. They coat pipes and public sewer mains causing nasty clogs. Carefully pour your fats, oils and grease into a empty container and dispose of it after it cools. Hardened FOG can be scraped into your compostable waste can along with your food scraps.

## Flush for a healthy environment.

Some items should never be flushed, even though they do break down in water. Dissolved chemicals can travel through the sewer system, interrupt the biological treatment process and pollute our local waterways.

Medications and supplements should not be flushed or emptied down the drain. Most local drug stores and pharmacies will take back old medication for proper disposal.

Solvents and chemicals like paint and paint thinner should not be flushed or emptied down the drain, either. Use up products completely and recycle the containers or take unused products to the recycling depot for hazardous waste disposal.

