



PRINT NEWSLETTER ARTICLE (ALL-SEASON):

### **Protect Your Home by Adopting Sewer-Smart Habits**

[YOUR ORGANIZATION] and Sanitation District No. 1 (SD1) are urging residents to adopt sewer-smart habits to protect their home, the community and our environment.

Just because something can go down the drain doesn't mean it should. In fact, putting the wrong things down your sink or toilet can clog pipes, slow drainage and result in hazardous sewer backups and overflows. These issues can be disruptive and costly for residents, property owners and surrounding neighbors.

Small habits can make a big difference, especially when it is a community effort. Here are a few simple ways you can be sewer smart:

#### **In the Kitchen**

Dispose of fats, oils and grease (FOG) in the trash, not the drain. Keeping FOG out of the drain is one of the best ways to avoid a sewer backup in your home. Many backups are caused by grease buildup on the walls of your sewer line. Over time, this grease can block water flow in your pipes, causing sewage to back up into your home.

How to do it:

1. Cool any leftover FOG.
2. Pour liquid FOG into a container, such as a can or jar.
3. Put the container in the trash.
4. Finally, wipe down greasy pans or dishes with a paper towel before washing them with soapy water and throw the towel in the trash.

Many of the foods we eat every day contain FOG, such as meat, butter, cooking oil, dairy products, gravy, sauces, mayonnaise and salad dressings. Keep these items out of the drain or garbage disposal.

#### **In the Bathroom**

Did you know that only bodily waste, toilet paper and wastewater should be flushed down the toilet? Cleansing wipes, even those labeled "flushable," should not be flushed, along with paper towels, tissues and other cloths. These materials do not break down in plumbing and are known to cause problems in private plumbing systems and treatment processes around the world. These plumbing problems can be costly.

How to do it:

- Place a wastebasket or trash bin in your bathroom for easy trash collection. Discard cleansing wipes, cotton balls, cotton swabs, diapers, floss, pads, paper towels, tampons and tissues in the trash, not the toilet.
- Dispose of old medications or drugs at an approved drug take-back site or event to prevent them from entering our natural environment and harming fish and our drinking water supply.

**If you experience a sewer backup, please contact SD1 at 859-578-7450, Option 1.** SD1 is available 24/7 to investigate and ensure that the public system is not contributing to the problem. You may need to hire a plumber to resolve any issues within your private plumbing.

By following these simple sewer-smart tips, you are helping to protect your home, community and the environment. For more information and resources visit [sd1.org/sewersmart](http://sd1.org/sewersmart).