

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE (HOLIDAY):

Adopt Sewer-Smart Habits to Protect Your Home and Environment During This Holiday Season

The holiday season is a time for delicious food and festive gatherings. But it's also a time when people are more likely to accidentally pour fats, oils and grease (FOG) down the drain or flush items that should not be flushed down the toilet.

FOG is a common byproduct of cooking and can easily solidify and clog your pipes. When you pour FOG down the drain, it cools and hardens, sticking to the sides of the pipes. Over time, this buildup can cause a blockage, preventing water from flowing freely and causing sewage to back up into your home. FOG is especially problematic during the holidays, since many cook large portions of holiday-favorite foods that often contain FOG, such as gravy, sauces, turkey and drippings. Additionally, the cold weather increases the chance of FOG solidifying in pipes.

Guests may also be more likely to flush non-flushable items down the toilet, such as wipes, feminine hygiene products and towels. These items can also clog your pipes and cause backups.

Clogged drains can be a major inconvenience and expense and overflows caused by poor sewer habits can pollute local waterways, harming wildlife and contaminating drinking water sources.

That's why it's important to adopt the following sewer-smart habits this holiday season:

Dispose of FOG in the trash, not down the drain.

Here are a few simple steps:

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 pots, pans or dishes with a paper towel before washing them with soapy water and throw the towel in the trash.

Even if you have a garbage disposal, it's still important to dispose of FOG properly. Your sink is not a trash can, so take the time to cool, can and trash FOG to stay safe.

Flush only bodily waste, toilet paper and wastewater down the toilet.

Place a wastebasket or trash bin in your bathroom for easy disposal of non-flushable items, such as:

- Cleansing wipes
- Cotton balls
- Cotton swabs
- Diapers
- Floss
- Pads
- Paper towels
- Tampons
- Tissues

Consider putting up a sign reminding guests not to flush anything else down the toilet.

If you experience a sewer backup, please contact SD1 at 859-578-7450, Option 1. SD1 is available 24/7, even during the holidays, 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.

For more tips on how to protect your home and the environment this holiday season, visit sd1.org/sewer-smart.