



HANNIBAL BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

ELECTRIC, WATER AND WASTEWATER

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Wastewater Disposal Tips

Getting to Know Your Drains

When you use your toilet, shower, washing machine, sink or dishwasher, wastewater leaves your home through pipes that connect to the city sewer system. Many materials frequently flushed or poured down the drain can harm the pipes that connect to city sewers as well as cause sewer backups in your home.

Anyone who uses the city sewer system should be responsible for what they flush or pour down their drains. It is important to educate yourself on what to flush!

The only thing you should ever flush down a toilet is human waste and toilet paper!

Here is a list of common household items that should NEVER be flushed down the toilet:

- *Disposable Diapers
- *Disposable Baby Wipes
- Cat Litter
- Pet Waste
- Sanitary Napkins
- Tampons and Tampon Applicators
- Cigarette Butts
- Condoms
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues
- Cotton Balls
- Cleaning Wipes of any kind
- Plastics
- Coffee Grounds
- Bandages and Bandage Wrappings
- Medications
- Fats, Oils and Grease

Here is a list of common household chemicals that should NEVER be flushed or poured down the drain:

- Paints or Varnishes
- Thinners
- Pesticides
- Lighter Fluid
- Gasoline
- Transmission Fluid
- Bug Spray
- Needles of any kind
- Fertilizer and Weed Killer
- Rat Poison
- Antifreeze
- Battery Acid

**Note: Although some diaper and wipes are promoted as "flushable", there is still a growing number of cities, like Hannibal, that have reported an increase in sewage system clogs due to a high number of baby wipes being flushed. Although you may be able to successfully flush these sort of items, the bigger problem occurs at the home's main sewer drain and the city's treatment facility, which can cost the homeowner much more in repairs should problems occur.*