

Sewer Back-up and Flood Protection

Nobody wants the expense or mess of a sewer back-up or flooding in the home! Here are some steps you can take to prevent flooding:

- Don't flush items down the toilet that you shouldn't!
- Disconnect illegal sump pumps and roof downspouts that are discharging to the Sanitary Sewer. These discharges are only legal when connected to the Storm Sewer or discharging to the ground.
- Minimize water usage during rain events greater than 1 inch. You can do this by delaying running the dishwasher or doing laundry a day or two after the rain. You can also adopt the Southern California policy of: "If it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down"! Minimizing water usage is very important during rain events. The flow to the sewer plant more than triples at this time. This means all the sewer pipes are full of water and increases the chance of flooding and sewer back-ups.

Don't Flush This

When you use your toilet, shower, sinks, washing machine or dishwasher, wastewater leaves your home through pipes that connect to the village sewer system.

Many materials frequently flushed or poured down the drain can harm the pipes that connect to village sewers as well as the village sewer system. Every property owner connected to the village sewer system can be a potential contributor to sewer problems, and a potential victim of those problems.

Putting the wrong things down the drain can damage the sewer system, cause sewer backups in your home, and sewer releases to the environment. Anyone who uses the village sewer system should be responsible for what they flush or pour down drains.

Basically, the only things you should ever flush down a toilet are human waste (urine and feces) and toilet paper. *Even though some products such as wipes and baby diapers claim to be flushable, they aren't.* Here is a list of some things to keep out of the toilet.

- Cleaning wipes of any kind
- Food grease
- disposable diapers, baby wipes, paper towels or plastic bags
- tampons and applicators, sanitary napkins, mini/maxi pads
- cotton balls and swabs, bandages/bandage wrappings or syringes
- condoms, facial tissue, dental floss, rubber bands or toothpicks
- paint, solvents, sealants, thinners, anti-freeze, oils, poisons or hazardous waste
- pet poop or kitty litter

Unused Medications

Do not flush unused medications down the toilet. You can safely dispose of medications in the garbage or take medications to an approved prescription drug take-back site or event.

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for property owners and the village. Never pour grease in your sink drain and try to use your garbage disposal less. Grease should be allowed to cool and gel into a solid state, then disposed of in the trash.

By following these guidelines, you can help protect you and your neighbors' homes from sewer back-ups and flooding. Your efforts will save you from calling a plumber and save the Village unnecessary emergency repairs. Both of these things will save you money!