

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS

When a Sanitary Sewer Overflow occurs, it is usually the result of improper materials being disposed in the sewer system.

Have you ever experienced a sanitary sewer back-up or overflow? These events are avoidable when a progressive preventative maintenance program and public education are put in place. Everyone helps prevent overflows by realizing what contributes to these problems and acts responsibly.



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By controlling the amounts of fats, oils, and grease, along with not flushing anything other than toilet paper, you can help prevent **SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS!**

DO'S & DON'TS

Wastewater systems are designed to carry three (3) things: human wastes, toilet paper, and sink drainage. You can do some simple things to help maintain normal flow and function of the sewer.

DO NOT: Use a toilet as a wastebasket.

DO NOT: Use the toilet to dispose of food scraps, baby wipes, diapers, or feminine sanitary products.



DO: Collect grease in a container for disposal in the garbage. Wipe excess grease from pans, dishes, and pots before washing.

DO: Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to properly dispose of refuse such as diapers, wipes, condoms, and personal hygiene products.

Following these simple steps will prevent costly plumbing repairs and blockages in homeowner sewer laterals as well as the mainline sewer system.

HELP PREVENT BACKUPS

Certain items should never be disposed in the sanitary sewer:

- **Diapers/Wipes**
- **Cooking Fats, Oils, Grease**
- **Paper Towels**
- **Food Scraps (Do NOT use a garbage disposal for all food items)**
- **Feminine Hygiene Products**
- **Condoms**
- **Pet Wastes**

DID YOU KNOW...

--Property owners are responsible for the maintenance, repair, cleaning, and replacement of the service line from the building to the Authority's main line sewer.

--Claims for sewer backups must be filed with the Authority using a specific procedure mandated by the Michigan legislature before a claim can be considered.

--Homeowner's insurance will generally not cover a backup unless the customer adds additional coverage for this type of event. Contact your agent for more information.

--A basement floor drain can be modified with a check valve to prevent basement backups. Contact a plumber for details.

HOUSEHOLD GREASE

The build up of fats, oils, and grease in a sewer eventually can cause blockages, resulting in basement backups and overflows.

It is proven that approximately 80% of grease-related sewer blockages and overflows originate in residential areas.

Every day, meals are prepared with fats, oils, and grease. Clean up results in the materials getting poured or washed down the drain from dishwashing activities, garbage disposals, or through intentional acts. Hot/warm water liquifies grease and once in the sewer, it solidifies onto the sides of the piping eventually closing off the piping. Here are some tips for proper disposal:

- **Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans, and dishes with paper towels and place them in the trash.**
- **Pour fats, oils, and grease into a container such as an empty coffee can or jar and when full, secure the lid and put it in the trash.**
- **Use sink strainers to capture food scraps and empty into the trash.**



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Sewer Backups And Overflows



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