



## Water Quality Department

575 Dorset Street  
South Burlington, Vermont 05403  
Tel: 802-658-7964

### What not to put down the drain

Everything that goes down the kitchen, laundry and bathrooms sink or that is flushed down the toilet ends up in the sewerage system. Treated sewerage is either reused or safely returned to our creeks, rivers and lakes. Putting the wrong things down the sewer affects our ability to treat and reuse the water and can cause damage to the system.

We can all play apart in helping the treatment process by being aware of our own actions and by realizing the kind of sewerage we generate has a real effect on the treatment process and environment.

Drains are not trashcans and the sewer system and treatment plant can't handle chemicals, trash, garbage or fats. Chemicals can harm the treatment plant or environment, and garbage, trash and fats can cause sewer back-ups and overflows. In addition to the inconvenience, back-ups and overflows are unsanitary, smelly and expensive for the City of South Burlington, and the homeowner, to correct.

Here are some things we want you to keep out of the sewers, and some information about what to do with them instead.

Removing **chemicals** from wastewater is difficult. Because there is additional processing, chemical removal raises costs. Some chemicals can be hazardous to treatment plant workers, and if chemicals pass through the plant, they can harm the environment as well.

#### **Chemical Disposal**

Take these and other chemicals to the CSWD Environmental Depot located at 1011 Airport Parkway.

- motor oil and auto fluids
- pesticides, fertilizers and lawn care products
- bleach and disinfectants
- beauty products
- medicine (prescription and non-prescription)
- paint, varnish, paint remover

#### **Trash**

Paper and plastic trash, such as the items listed below, should be put in the garbage can or dumpster.

- Paper towels, napkins, tissue, and other paper products
- Dental floss, feminine hygiene products and plastic applicators, condoms, disposable diapers

### **Fats, Oils and Grease**

- Pour kitchen fats and oils into a container, seal it and throw it into the bin
- Put basket/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and compost or empty them into the trash
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to keep grease out of drains

By thinking twice before disposing of household waste down the drain you can significantly reduce the risk of blockages in your pipes and ours, as well as ensure that the sewerage arriving at our treatment plants is fit to be processed and then re-used or released safely into the environment.

***Steven Crosby, Superintendent***

***Water Quality Department***