

When you use your toilet, shower, washing machine, dishwasher and kitchen/bathroom sinks, 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 the city sewer system.

Many items marketed as disposable and/or flushable do not degrade like toilet paper, and they wind up clogging pipes, tangling pumps and causing messy sewer backups into streets, businesses and homes.

The drains that connect your home to the main sewer are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste. Sewer pipes are often no wider than 4 inches. The only items you should ever flush down a toilet are human waste and toilet paper.

Here is a list of some things to keep out of the toilet and from your sink drains.

- Personal care wipes/baby wipes/cleaning wipes
- Dental floss
- Disposable diapers/Sanitary supplies
- Cotton balls and swabs/ cosmetic pads
- Paper towels/kleenex
- Contact lenses
- Bandages and bandage wrappings
- Syringes, needles and razor blades
- Candy and other food wrappers
- Clothing labels
- Cleaning sponges and cloths
- Plastic items of any description/Toys/plastic bags
- Aquarium gravel/Kitty litter (including types labeled "flushable")
- Rubber items such as latex gloves and condoms
- Cigarette butts
- Hair
- Disposable toilet brushes

Hazardous Waste

Jefferson County has a comprehensive program for dealing with left-over hazardous wastes such as lawn and garden chemicals, fuels, paints, and many other items identified as being household hazardous waste, also termed "moderate risk waste." Visit the JeffersonCounty Public Health website for more information. <https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/690/Hazardous-Waste>

Households hazardous waste flyer:

<https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/DocumentCenter/View/1350/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Collection-Facility-Flier-PDF>

Examples of hazardous Waste include:

- Clean solvents, spot removers, Disinfectants, Bleach and ammonia
- Hot tub and swimming pool chemicals
- Oven cleaners
- Septic tank cleaners
- Alkyd, latex and oil-based paints

- Lacquers, stains and varnishes
- Paint thinners, strippers and solvents
- Petroleum-based products such as motor oil and gasoline (automotive fluids)

Unused Medications

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

- **Prescription Drug drop off:**
 - City: You can drop off prescription drugs only (no sharps, syringes or vitamins/supplements) at the Port Townsend Police Department during normal business hours. (360) 385-2322 1925 Blaine Street, Port Townsend WA 98368
 - County: You can drop off prescription drugs/over the counter drugs and liquid drugs only (no sharps, syringes or vitamins/supplements) at the Jefferson County Sheriff's office M/T/Th/F 9-4, W 1-4 (360) 385-3831 79 Elkins Road, Port Hadlock WA 98339 <https://jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com/hazardous-waste/medication-disposal/>
 - All sharps should be disposed of in proper containers.
 - Vitamins and supplements should be placed with your regular household trash.

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for property owners and the city. Never pour grease in your sink drain and try to use your garbage disposal less. It's a good idea to wipe cooking equipment and scrape dishes before washing. See our [FOG flyer](#) for more information about Fats, Oils and Grease.