



Keeping Trash Out of the Sewer System - Fact Sheet

Your toilet and sewer system are designed to dispose of human wastes and toilet paper (which quickly breaks down). Unfortunately, some people use the toilet as a wastebasket out of convenience. It is a huge "out of sight, out of mind" problem because people often don't see the mess sewer overflows cause.

Why is it a problem? Trash and other objects often combine with hair, grease and other debris in sewage to cause clogging of the sewer system. Even something as small as a cotton tip swab with other attached debris can cause a blockage in sewer pipes. Rags and stringy material can clog sewage pumps. Malfunctioning sewage pumps, like clogged pipes, prevent sewage from flowing through the system and are a cause of backups and spills. Any trash-type items that you dump in toilets and sinks at home, work, schools, shopping centers, movie theaters, or parks can contribute to sewage spills.

Do not flush trash down the toilet. Instead, discard these items in the trash can. The proper disposal of these products will help keep our sewer system flowing properly, thereby ensuring that LASA can safely contain, convey, and treat the community's wastewater.

To prevent sewage system blockages and overflows, please practice the following:

Do

- Dispose of the following items in the trash:
 - Paper (paper towels, facial tissue (Kleenex), paper napkins, wrappers, etc.). Only toilet tissue is okay!
 - Disposable Wipes (Disposable does not mean flushable!)
 - Plastics (bags, wrappers, bottles, cotton-tip shafts)
 - Rubber (gloves, condoms, underclothes, elastic, etc.)
 - Cloth and fibers (cotton balls, tampons, cigarette filters, stockings, rags, etc.)
 - Toys, cans, sticks, pebbles and sand, and all other solids except for human wastes and toilet tissue.
- Place and use a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of trash.
- Use sink and shower drain strainers.

Do Not

- Use the toilet as a wastebasket.



For more information on keeping trash out of our sewers, please visit www.lasa.org.