



# NOT DOWN THE DRAIN!

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 Town of Clayton, and often 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.

- **Paper and plastic trash** can block the sanitary pipes in your house or in the street.
- **Fats, oils and grease** that are poured down the drain can harden into a plug, and block an entire pipe, causing sewer overflows and backups.
- **Garbage**, just like trash and fats, clogs and blocks the pipes.

## **Chemical Disposal**

Take these and other chemicals to a hazardous waste collection site.

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

## **Trash**

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

- paper towels, napkins, tissue, and other paper products
- dental floss
- feminine hygiene products and applicators
- cat litter
- cigarettes
- plastics
- disposable diapers

## **Fats, Oils and Grease**

- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).
- Whenever you have a greasy pan to wash, wipe it out after use (while it's still warm, not hot) with newspaper or paper towel.
- Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and then empty them in the trash.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to keep grease out of drains.

## **Garbage**

- **Meat scraps and bones** should be wrapped securely in paper, foil or plastic and put in your garbage can or dumpster. In warm weather, put them in your freezer until the night before trash pick-up to minimize smell and discourage animals.
- **Vegetable and fruit** scraps can be put in the regular garbage, or you can compost them.