TOILETS ARE NOT TRASH CANS

Another common way to damage pipes and create clogs is to use a toilet as a trash can. Only human waste (urine and feces) and toilet paper should ever be flushed down the toilet. These common items should always be kept out of the toilet:

- facial tissue (Kleenex)
- disposable diapers/baby wipes
- tampons and tampon applicators/ sanitary napkins /mini or maxi pads
- cotton balls and swabs
- hygiene wipes (even if it says flushable)
- condoms
- cleaning wipes of any kind
- bandages and bandage wrappings
- automotive fluids
- paint, solvents, sealants and thinners
- poisons and hazardous waste
- cat litter (even if it says flushable)
- unused medications (dispose at an approved prescription drug take-back event)

We are here to help!

Contact us if you have any questions.

(530) 346-2313
or by mail at
Colfax City Hall
c/o Sewer Manager
PO Box 702
Colfax, CA 95713

This home-owner admitted pouring bacon grease down the drain “about twice a month” for only one year.

THE CITY OF COLFAX 1910

Protecting Our Pipes

Against FOG

As part of our daily routine, everyone sends water swirling down the drain. Since the invention of the garbage disposal which claims to grind even the hard stuff such as small bones and fruit peels, people throw or pour substances down the drain without thinking of the consequences to pipes, the environment or their pocketbook.

Putting trash down the kitchen sink or any other drain in the house can cause pipes to clog, burst or backup. This can potentially lead to expensive, hazardous spills in your home, business, and even our streets, rivers and ocean.

Here's how to protect the pipes in your home and business and the City's collection system pipelines.

No Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Cooking oils, meat juices, shortening, salad dressings, sandwich spreads, daily products, sauces and butter/margarine

Don'ts

Never pour FOG down sink drains, garbage disposal or toilets.

Never send food scraps down the garbage disposal.

Never dispose of FOG outside, on the ground, or down the stormdrain.

Never pour hot water and detergent down the drain with grease.

Do's

Pour small amounts of grease into a non-recyclable container (juice can, empty milk carton, coffee cans, pet food cans). Make sure the grease hardens before disposing of it in the trash.

Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash.

Use sink strainer to catch food items, and then empty the strainer into your compost bin or trash.

Pour liquid cooking oil into a leak-proof container (such as the plastic bottle with a secure top in which the cooking oil came) and bring it to one of the City's free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events.

No Food, Hair or Hazardous Materials

Don'ts

Never wash food down the sink, especially coffee grounds and eggshells.

Never let hair escape down the drain as it is very difficult to get out of pipes. Hair will catch and stick to other items.

Never pour highly-toxic motor oil, pesticides, paint and solvents down the drain as they can cause long-term damage to the environment.

Do's

Use your garbage disposal sparingly, if at all.

Use a fine drain screen to catch hair in your bathtub and shower and dispose of it in the trash.

Bring hazardous liquid items such as motor oil, pesticides, paints and solvents to one of the City's free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events.