

“Avoid Drain Pain”

Sewer systems are designed to dispose of very specific things.

Just because the package says flushable doesn't mean it's true.

When you use your toilet, shower, washing machine or dishwasher, wastewater leaves your home through pipes that connect to the Town's sewer system. Unfortunately, over the years, people have turned the toilet into a trash can. From medications and sanitary products to deceased pet fish and cigarette butts, if it fits, people flush it.

Flushing these types of items down the toilet causes home pipes to clog and can have a huge impact on our municipal system. Every property owner can be a potential contributor to sewer problems and a potential victim of those problems.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Basically, the only things you should ever flush down a toilet are human waste and toilet paper. Even though some products claim to be flushable, they aren't.

WHAT IS THE FLUSHABILITY TEST? Take two bowls of water. Place toilet paper in one and place the item in question in the other. Swish both items in the water, wait an hour, then swish again. The toilet paper should have significantly disintegrated, while the other item will likely remain intact. Unless the item disintegrates at the rate of toilet paper, it should be placed in the trash. Otherwise, you risk a blockage in your home as well as clogging a pump station or causing a sewage backup for other homes and businesses.

3 EASY STEPS TO KEEP OUR SEWER SYSTEM HEALTHY:

1. Do not flush non-degradable items.
2. Seal non-flushable items in a bag and dispose in the trash.
3. Keep wastewater as chemical free as possible.

WHAT HAPPENS TO IT? All sewers lead to pump stations that transfer liquid waste (sludge) to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The sludge is treated using a combination of filtration, aeration & disinfection processes before the water is released back into the harbor. It is critical to keep household and hazardous chemicals out of the system as these can kill the “good bacteria” that are essential to the treatment process. For more information, visit www.fridayharbor.org.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE A BLOCKAGE? The Town is responsible for cleaning and repairing the main lines in the streets. Property Owners are responsible for maintaining side sewers connecting to those main lines.

“Think Trash, Not Toilets!”

Thank you for caring about your neighbors and our environment. - *The Town of Friday Harbor*



Thank you for Not Flushing These Items:

- Sanitary Products
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers
- Condoms
- Hair
- Bandages
- Facial tissue
- Paper towels
- Cleaning wipes
- Sponges
- Cotton balls
- Dental floss
- Prescription drugs
- OTC medications
- Dirt
- Kitty litter
- Pet waste
- Deceased animals
- Food
- Fats, oil & grease
- Coffee grounds
- Automotive fluids
- Paints, solvents, sealants & thinners
- Poisons, pesticides & hazardous waste
- Cigarette butts
- Cloth of any kind
- Plastic of any kind
- Non-biodegradable items of any kind