

# What not to put in your sewer system

## **"Disposable" does not mean "Flushable"**

Residents and business owners are reminded that if a product claims to be "disposable" it does not mean it's "flushable". Product packaging clearly indicates disposal into a trashcan. Also, items claiming to be "biodegradable" do not necessarily break down well enough to be put into a sewer system.

Many materials potentially flushed or poured down the drain can harm the pipes that connect to our sewers, the sewers themselves, as well as the treatment plant, eventually harming the environment.

If it doesn't dissolve immediately in a bowl it has no place in the sewer. The exception, of course, is toilet paper.

Grease is a major problem for our system. It will coat the sewer walls and eventually cause a flow slow down and back up. In addition the treatment plant does not degrade grease very well. **Pour grease into a container, let it solidify and throw it into the trash.**

Toxic materials are not allowed. Anything that contains mercury or PCP's is prohibited. Paints, pesticides, paint thinners, solvents, explosive mixtures, lubricating oil and unused medications are **not allowed**. Stearns County has provided hazardous waste collection dates to enable proper disposal of these items.

### **Other common items that should not be flushed into the sewer system:**

- Plastic objects (toys, eating utensils, etc)
- Glass, metal, wood or soil
- Cooking oil, or other edible food oils
- Rags, condoms, sanitary napkins, diapers, tampons and paper towels
- Cotton balls, shop towels, and swabs
- Cigarettes
- Hair clippings
- "Flushable" toilet brushes, wipes and pads
- Wet mopping cloths

If you have questions on how to properly dispose of household waste, please contact the Albany Public Works Department at 845-2388.

Thank you for your cooperation.