



PUBLIC NOTICE
**WHAT NOT
TO FLUSH**

Dear Valued City of Dover Customers,

The City of Dover would like to take a moment to provide public outreach to our customers on what not to flush down your toilet or drain. The following items can produce a blockage in private sewer laterals or the City’s sewer mains and cause operational backups and environmental spills.

Fats, Oils and Grease

A negative byproduct of food preparation and cleaning is fats, oils and grease (FOG). This can be created by dumping fried foods, dairy products, salad dressings, oils from cooking, etc. down the drain. This discharge can build up in a sanitary sewer lateral or main after it solidifies and create a blockage of the sewage that is on its way to be treated before being discharged back into the environment. The blockage in the sanitary sewer lateral or main can create sanitary sewer backups into properties as the sewage has no alternative but to surcharge up a sanitary sewer lateral. These products should be cooled, solidified and put into your trash can. Some evidence of the impact of FOG discharge into a sanitary sewer are found below:



Figure 1: Buildup of grease causes a decrease in pipe diameter, courtesy; City of Dover

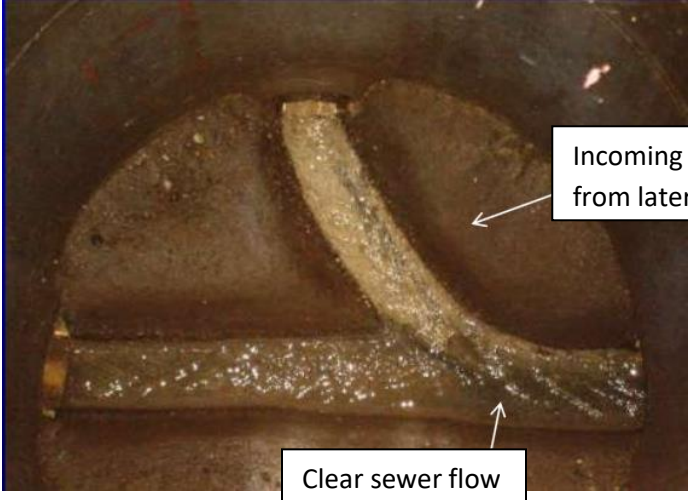


Figure 2: Image of the bottom of a sanitary sewer manhole (www.apwa.net)

Wipes, Paper Towels, Etc.

Other items that should never be sent down the toilet or drain include paper towels, wipes, ear cleaning swabs, dental floss, feminine hygiene products or disposable diapers. Even if the item is marked “FLUSHABLE”, never put them down the toilet. All of these products belong in the trash can and can damage the sanitary sewer system. Along with FOGs, these items can create severe blockages as well as putting strain on our pump stations, which can result in a sewer backup and contaminate the environment. Some evidence of these items and the impact on the sanitary sewer are found below:



Figure 1: Wipes, Paper Towels being pulled out of a sanitary sewer (www.apwa.net)



Figure 4: Materials pulled from a pump station in the City of Dover

The costs associated with these blockages and potential sewer overflow can cost in the thousands of dollars. Additionally, if the sewage is discharged into a water body, wildlife can be negatively affected. Please help protect our environment and infrastructure by preventing equipment and pipes from blockages and expensive clean-up costs.

On behalf of the City of Dover Department of Water & Wastewater, we would like to sincerely thank you for your cooperation with this operational issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



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Director of Water & Wastewater
City of Dover
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