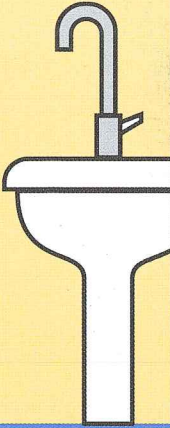
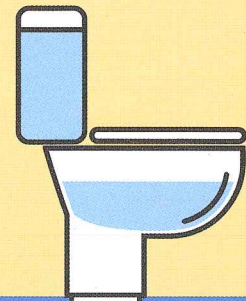


# Don't Rush, Think Before You Flush



Help protect the environment and your regional wastewater collection and treatment systems by reducing the amount of contaminants discharged into the sanitary sewer systems.

## What you put down the drain matters!

Most people think that wastewater treatment will deal with anything we put down the drain. The reality is wastewater treatment cannot remove all contaminants. That means some contaminants can impact the environment even after treatment.

## What's the problem?

Our aim is to protect our environment and watershed by reducing industrial, commercial, institutional and household contaminants from being discharged to the city sewer system and eventually back into the Lake. As more than 60,000 residents get their drinking water from Okanagan Lake, it is important to keep specific contaminants out of our precious water supply.

Some chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals cannot be treated or removed at the Wastewater Treatment Facility and should never be flushed down the drain or toilet.

Cooking oil or grease poured down the drain is the number one cause of sewer blockages and overflows. It clogs up pipes and sticks to the equipment in sewer lift stations.

## It costs more than \$60,000 annually to clear grease from our sewers.

Disposable wipes, dental floss, hygienic products and anything that will not disintegrate should be disposed into the garbage and not flushed down the toilet. These items entangle with other waste and create problems in the collection system and at the treatment plant.

## But you can make a difference!

For more information please visit [www.regionaldistrict.com](http://www.regionaldistrict.com) and do your part for the environment.

Keep

Your

Pipes

Clean

Help prevent clogs and sewer over flows.

### Don't Flush:

Fats, Oils & Greases  
Medications  
Non-Flushable Products  
Cleaning Products  
Motor Oil  
Old Paint

What can you do?

# What can you do?

## The solution is inexpensive.

The **GOOD NEWS** is it's not hard, time consuming or expensive to limit the amount of contaminants that go down our drains. Here are some quick, easy and free actions to take to help keep your environment clean, protect your private property and help maintain our wastewater infrastructure.

Whether you are connected to sewer or on septic, what you put down the drain makes a difference.

## Non-Flushable Products

**THE PROBLEM:** Items like wipes (baby wipes, personal hygiene wipes, cleaning wipes), paper towels, tampons + applicators, condoms, floss and even hair cause problems. These products don't break down quickly enough in the wastewater system (or at all) and can end up clogging our sewers and your pipes.

**THE SOLUTION:** Toss wipes, rags, paper towels, diapers, feminine hygiene products in the garbage.

## Fats, Oils & Greases

**THE PROBLEM:** Cooking oil and grease poured down drains is the number one cause of sewer blockages and overflows in the wastewater collection system.

**THE SOLUTION:** Pour cooled oil into a large can with a lid. Wipe excess oil with a paper towel. Full cans of grease or jugs of old cooking oil can be recycled at the Glenmore Landfill or the Westside Residential Waste and Recycling Centre.

### DON'T FORGET

other foods such as ice cream and mayonnaise also contain oils and should also be discarded into the trash.

## Medications

**THE PROBLEM:** Not all pharmaceuticals are removed in the wastewater treatment process and as a result, some chemicals may end up in the environment.

**THE SOLUTION:** Return unused and expired prescription drugs, over the counter medication, vitamins and natural health products to your local pharmacy.

Visit [medicationsreturn.ca](http://medicationsreturn.ca) for a pharmacy near you.

## Cleaning Products, Motor Oil, Old Paint

**THE PROBLEM:** Many household products are hazardous and should never be poured down the drain including motor oil, paint, solvents or other chemicals. Some household cleaning products can also be harmful.

**THE SOLUTION:** Return household hazardous wastes and unused cleaning products to a hazardous waste collector. Fortunately, there are environmentally safe and affordable alternatives to most household cleaners. A quick search of the internet will provide you with many options.

Visit [regionaldistrict.com](http://regionaldistrict.com) for options to safely dispose of these materials.

For more information please visit [www.regionaldistrict.com](http://www.regionaldistrict.com) and do your part for the environment.