

DON'T BLOCK THAT LINE: HOW TO PREVENT CLOGS, BACKUPS, AND OVERFLOWS

When sewer lines are blocked, the result can be messy, dangerous, and expensive. Fortunately, there are simple steps everyone can take to help keep this from happening.



The answer is not at your disposal

No matter how powerful your garbage disposal may be, it can't prevent grease from draining into your pipes. And detergents that claim to dissolve grease may just pass it along and cause problems down the line.



The problem: Grease, fat, oil, and so-called flushables

When poured or washed down the drain, these substances and materials can adhere to the insides of pipes that carry wastewater to sewer lines. Over time, this buildup can lead to blockages that cause backups and overflow.



Simple steps you can take

First, never pour grease, fat, or oil into sinks, toilets or down drains. After cooking, let it cool, use a rubber scraper to remove it from dishes and cookware, put it in a sealed container, and put it in the trash.



Strain it, don't drain it

To keep food scraps out of pipes, put a basket/strainer in the drain and empty the trapped pieces into the trash.



Let's talk trash

Paper towels, facial tissues and even so-called "flushable" wipes can all cause problems if flushed down the toilet. Throw them in the trash can instead.



Slow the flow

The more water that's discharged into sewer systems, the harder they have to work. You can help by installing high-efficiency washing machines and dishwashers, low-flow toilets, shower heads, and sink aerators.

To find out more:

To learn more about wastewater—how we treat it, where it goes—visit us on the web at amwater.com



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