



Newsletter - May 2015

2015

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Stuff It: What You Can (And Shouldn't)

Shove Down Your Drains, Toilets And Garbage

It's so tempting. That bathroom sink or toilet, or kitchen sink, is right there. So tempting to just throw those objects in and be rid of them. The problem is, you aren't really getting rid of them. Every time you throw something you shouldn't into one of these openings, you are increasing the chances that your pipes will clog, or your sewer line will back up. The potential result: a panicked call to the plumber at best, and a messy and expensive flood at worst.

So here are some simple rules as to what you should and should not throw down the drain, or flush down the toilet, or shove into the garbage disposal. You might even want to print this out and keep in handy.

Bathroom Drains

Pretty simple. Don't let anything go down these drains. That includes hair, dental floss, nail clippings, expired or unused medications, and make up.

What is OK to go down these drains? Water.

Toilets

Rather than tell you what you should not flush down the toilet, we're just going to tell you what you CAN flush down the toilet. Human waste and toilet paper. And that's it. Just because a product (like wipes) says it is flushable doesn't mean you should. A set of car keys is flushable but neither the keys nor the wipes will EVER break down in the sewer.

Garbage Disposers

Even though your garbage disposer is attached to your kitchen sink, that does not mean you should throw everything but the kitchen sink down it. Non-food items should never be thrown down the garbage disposer. Always run cold water to help fats cling to food instead of your pipes and run the water for a minute after grinding food to ensure the waste is carried down the drain line. But here are some food items you should also avoid putting down the disposer:

- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags
- Bones (high end disposers will grind bones without a problem... ask for details)
- Cooked rice and pasta (you can, but grind it in small batches and run lots of water between batches)
- Stringy vegetables (asparagus, celery, etc.)
- Corn husks
- Cooking fats or grease

Finally, one other thing that is OK to stick down any of these drains is a preventative maintenance drain chemical. However, avoid products that contain acid or a base such as Liquid Plumber or Draino. They can damage your pipes. We recommend Bio-Clean, a non-toxic preventative maintenance chemical. Make sure you follow the instructions.

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