

## ● AVOID COSTLY AND UNPLEASANT CLEANUP

Sewer overflows and backups can cause damage to homes, are health hazards, and they threaten the environment. By taking a few preventative measures you can decrease your odds of having raw sewage backup in your home which is an expensive and unpleasant experience. It will also help your municipal sewer department keep maintenance costs and sewer bills down

*Madison Water and Wastewater Department*  
*- Quality At Your Service-*

This brochure was prepared by the City of Madison, SD- Department of Water and Wastewater.

Contact information is listed below.

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**CITY OF MADISON- WATER AND WASTEWATER**

● **DON'T LET A SEWER BACKUP RUIN YOUR DAY**



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## SOME THINGS ARE JUST NOT MEANT TO GO DOWN THE DRAIN

Sewer problems usually happen at the most inopportune time, but the majority of sewer backups can be avoided for both YOU and your NEIGHBORS.

There are some things that people put down the drain in their homes that will always cause problems. Some of those items are: grease, oil, and fats from cooking, diapers, women's hygiene items like tampons and pads, baby wipes, cleaning wipes and rags to name a few.

These items will not dissolve and will get stuck in your drain pipes or the city sewer main and cause problems for you and your neighbors. Some products are even claimed by their manufacturer to be flushable but they are not because they will not dissolve in water. When in doubt, put the item in a plastic bag and dispose of it in your household trash.



**Don't flush anything that will not dissolve in water**

## WHERE DOES THE GREASE COME FROM?

Most of us know that grease is a byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:



**Cooking grease causes BIG problems when dumped down the drain**

- Meat Fats
- Lard & Shortening
- Food Scraps
- Cooking Oil
- Butter & Margarine
- Dairy Products

Grease is usually washed into the plumbing system through the kitchen sink. This grease will solidify and stick to the inside of the sewer pipe in your sewer service or in the city mains. In time the grease will build up and block the pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. Garbage disposals only grind solid material into smaller pieces, but do not prevent grease from going down the drain.

Detergents that claim to dissolve grease only help grease pass further down the line and cause problems in other areas. Eventually it will emulsify and harden to cause a blockage.

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

The easiest way to help alleviate the potential for sewer backups is follow a few simple tips.

- Scrape food scraps and grease from pots, pans, utensils, plates, and cooking surfaces into the trash for disposal..
- NEVER pour grease down a garbage disposal or drain.
- Never flush anything down the toilet that will not dissolve or break up in water.



**Putting the wrong items down the drain will cost you \$**