

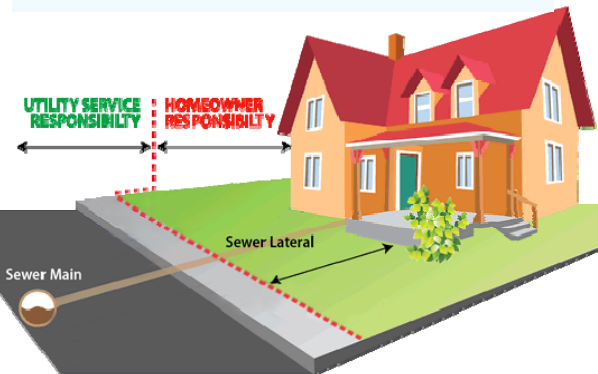
What To Do If You Have a Backup

- Check if the backup is only coming from one drain or multiple drains within the house or business.
- If only one drain is having an issue, identify the area and/or seek assistance from a plumber.
- If many areas are having drainage issues/backing up, contact the Sanitary Engineering Department immediately.



Facts

- When products advertise “disposable” or “flushable”, that isn’t always true. Flushable wipes often clog up sewer lines and pumps.
- Only human waste and toilet paper are completely safe to flush down the toilet.



Below: Pictures of Clogged Pumps Due to Flushing of Improper Items



After being flushed, maintenance workers will often find baby wipes after they have gone through the collection system. They will get stuck in pump stations. The baby wipe below was found in a pump station causing the need for debris to be removed manually.



Sanitary Engineering Department

“Should I Flush This?”

What You Should and Should Not Flush



Phone: 419-996-4670
Emergency After-Hours: 888-229-9645
Fax: 419-229-3297
<http://www.allencountyohio.com/san/san.php>
Office Hours: 7:30a.m.-4:00p.m.

You Should Not Flush Any of the Following:

- Sanitary napkins, tampons, tampon applicators, condoms, or any non-organic material
- Diapers, adult protective underwear (cloth, disposable, “flushable”)
- Bandages or bandage wrappers
- Paper towels, facial tissues, napkins, baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, moist wipes
- Bags or wrappers
- Gum
- Kitty litter/pet waste
- Clothing, wash cloths, towels, rags
- Egg shells, nutshells & coffee grounds
- Paints, nail polish, polish remover
- Dental floss and teeth whitening strips
- Hair, hair ties and rubber bands
- Fats, oils and greases
- Cans, bottles, brick, glass, wood
- Syringes or needles
- Small animals (fish, hamsters, mice, etc.)
- Toilet bowl scrub pads
- Flammable or other toxic chemicals



Above is the result of flushing fats, oils and grease. Sanitary sewer mains and residential/commercial laterals can become blocked and this will lead to many complications with public and residential/commercial systems.

Do NOT Flush



Sanitary Engineering
 Phone: 419-996-4670
 Emergency After-Hours: 888-229-9645
 Fax: 419-229-3297
<http://www.allencountyohio.com/san/san.php>
 Office Hours: 7:30a.m.-4:00p.m.

Sewer Backups

Sewer backups can be caused by mainline blockages or within private sewer service lines. Some causes of sewer blockages include:

- Disposable (“Flushable”) wipes, baby wipes, cloth rags.
- Paper products can become lodged in the line and cause backups.
- Other non human waste items such as grease and sponges can cause blockages that lead to backups as well.
- Vandalism– Rocks, sticks, leaves and bricks are sometimes found stuffed down manholes.
- Defective pipes and joints in either public or private lines.
- Tree roots entering cracks in the sewerline.

Will backups affect you?

When a sanitary sewer main or service lateral backs up it will seek out the lowest possible opening to exit– typically in a homeowner’s basement. Sewage may exit out of toilets, drains, cleanouts, and manholes.

Prevention

- Do not flush any items except for toilet paper and human waste.
- If you are having slow drainage issues narrow down the location of the problem and take corrective action.
- Remove tree roots that are obstructing sewer lines on your property.
- Report vandalism of sewer systems if you witness it (ex:

