

PROTECT OUR WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

YOUR ACTIONS MATTER: HELP SAFEGUARD PUBLIC HEALTH AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

DO NOT flush or pour these items down any drain:



Oils, Fats, and Grease (FOG)

Cooking oils,
grease, fat
drippings

Butter, lard,
shortening

Lotions,
wax-based
products

Why: FOG hardens inside pipes, causing blockages in homes and sewer lines.



Medications & Pharmaceuticals

Prescription and
over-the-counter
drugs

Antibiotics, chemotherapy
medications

Why: They can harm aquatic life and are not fully removed during treatment.



Paints, Solvents, & Chemicals

Paints, paint
thinners,
adhesives

Nail polish
remover

Degreasers,
automotive fluids
(oil, gas, antifreeze)

Why: Chemicals can damage infrastructure, produce toxic fumes, and disrupt the treatment process.



Wipes & Personal Products

Flushable
wipes, baby
wipes

Cleaning
wipes

Makeup wipes, cotton
products, hygiene
items

Why: These do not break down and cause pump clogs, blockages, and equipment damage.



Strong Cleaners & Disinfectants

Large amounts
of bleach

Drain cleaners
(acidic or caustic)

Industrial-strength
cleaners, strippers,
or sanitizers

Why: Excessive disinfectants kill the beneficial microorganisms that treat wastewater.



Pesticides & Hazardous Products

Herbicides,
insecticides

Pool chemicals

Metal
cleaners or
polishes

Why: These products are toxic to the biological processes that clean wastewater and can harm the environment.

Safe Alternatives

- Trash it: Wipes, grease, hygiene products, paint trays with residue.
- Recycle or dispose properly: Motor oil, paints, solvents.
- Use medicine take-back programs to dispose of pharmaceuticals.
- Use natural alternatives to chemical cleaners.

Scan FMI
and list of
natural
alternatives.



Your Actions Matter

Every home and business plays an important role in protecting our wastewater treatment system. By keeping harmful products out of sinks, toilets, and storm drains, you help:

- Prevent sewer blockages
- Protect public health
- Keep rivers, lakes, and coastal waters clean
- Reduce treatment costs
- Extend the life of our infrastructure

ONLY THE 3 PS, PLEASE! Poop, Pee, and (Toilet) Paper.



Portland
Water
District