

The holidays are right around the corner and while many will be busy entertaining friends and family, this can also mean the increased potential for the wrong things to get flushed down the drains. In the chaos of the holiday season, you may be tempted to take some short cuts while cleaning up. It may seem like an easy solution, but putting the wrong things down the drain may lead to a nastier problem and a visit from the plumber. Proper disposal of your household wastes may prevent you from becoming a Scrooge this holiday season and save your home from a clogged drain and costly plumbing repairs.

So remember whether you are caroling with friends or hosting a holiday dinner, nobody wants to be hassled with a Christmas clog. Give your drains a gift this holiday season and avoid the hassle of a clogged drain.

To assist CTRWD customers in properly disposing of fats, oils and grease, CTRWD offers many handy household giveaways. Below are a few of the items that are available at our office to help you keep your drains clear and flowing.



Grease Jar



Jar Opener



Food Scraper



Can Lid

If you would like more information about our Pretreatment Program, please visit our website:

www.ctrwd.org

OR

Contact our Pretreatment Specialist
Shaun Odom
317-873-0564

If you have an interest in a
Plant tour, contact Scot Watkins at
317-873-0564



Clay Township Regional Waste District

10701 N. College Avenue, Suite A
Indianapolis, Indiana 46280

Tel: 317-844-9200

Fax: 317-844-9203

www.ctrwd.org

The 12 Clogs of Christmas



12 Toxic Chemicals

Household hazardous chemicals down the drain can not only be dangerous for the environment and treatment process but can make unclogging your drains more dangerous.

Consider environmental alternatives when purchasing. If alternatives are unavailable, dispose of it properly in accordance with state and/or local requirements.



11 Cigarette Butts

Besides being a waste of water, flushing a cigarette butt down the toilet can not only clog your pipes but can also release toxic chemicals into the water. Because the filters contain plastic and they are not biodegradable, they can release toxic chemicals into the water including nicotine, benzene and cadmium. In the pipes, they collect with other buildups to create larger blockages. It best to take the butts with you until a suitable disposal location is found.



10 Feminine Products

Feminine products are inherently designed to absorb moisture and expand. Because of this expansion, feminine products can cause major clogs to your home's plumbing and the sewage system. If they do make it through your pipes, many times they end up clogging the pumps that transport the wastewater to the treatment facility, causing a potential overflow or backup. These items can be discreetly wrapped and placed in the trash.



9 Medications

The problem with medications isn't the clog, but where they end up once you flush. Because the treatment process is not designed to remove these medications from the water, they end up getting sent back to the local waterways. These medications, when improperly disposed of, can have a huge impact on the environment and wildlife. When discarding medications, contact your local pharmacy for disposal programs and drop off locations.



8 Kinds of Trash

While most people understand the consequences of littering, many find it perfectly acceptable to flush trash down the toilet. Just because it will fit down the drain, doesn't mean that it should be flushed. Basically the only things that should be flushed down the toilet are human waste and toilet paper. If you follow this simple rule, your holiday will be filled with joy!



7 Balls of Floss

Dental floss isn't biodegradable and, while one piece may not seem like much, it can catch easily on buildups in the pipes and entangle itself to form a larger blockage. As floss becomes further entangled, it binds with other waste causing a spider web of waste. As it travels further through the process, it attaches to pumps and other equipment that is essential for transporting the wastewater to the treatment facility. The best solution is to simply throw floss in the trash.



6 Cotton Swabs

It might seem like these tiny hygiene instruments would just get soggy and eventually break down in the pipe, but they don't. Like many other items on this list, cotton swabs are not biodegradable. Eventually cotton swabs will gather together in bends of the pipe, causing blockages, overflows and backups. The best course of action is to dispose of them in the trash.



5 Cups of Grease

When cooking, the fats, oils and grease (FOG) should never be placed down the drain. It may seem like a liquid when it is hot, but as soon as FOG hits the drain, it cools and congeals, becoming a pipe-clogging wax. Everything that comes in contact with the FOG will stick causing an even larger blockage. By scraping FOG into the trash, you can save your plumbing as well as a holiday visit from a plumber. Contact CTRWD for drain-saving giveaways.



4 Flushable Wipes

Despite the fact that they're marketed to be flushed like toilet paper, flushable wipes are creating clogs and backups in sewer systems around the nation. Even if labeled safe for the sewers, these wipes are too thick and ridged to be disposed of down the drain. The wipes can create blockages when they collect on joints in the pipes or clog pumps which requires costly maintenance.



3 Dirty Diapers

Just because it contains your baby's waste, doesn't mean that it belongs in the toilet. Diapers are made of polymers that are designed to expand when it comes in contact with liquid. Diapers are designed to expand to stop leaks and that is exactly why they are bad for the sewer system. If this expansion occurs in your plumbing, it can cause major blockages and require a costly visit from the plumber.



2 Paper Towels

Paper towels are made of an absorbent material and are not designed to break down like toilet paper. They are much larger and thicker than toilet paper which makes them a good choice for absorbing or cleaning up messes. But they also cause pipes to clog easily. Keeping paper towels out of drains and toilets will keep your pipes flowing and avoid having to call a plumber for repairs.



1 Food and Dairy

Just like FOG, food and dairy products should not be placed down the drain. Garbage disposals don't help either. In fact, they can make things worse. They grind up food and allow it to attach easily to other blockages in the sewers. Food placed down the drain is going to contain grease and will create the same problems as cooking oils or grease. Scrape all food waste into the trash.

