

COMMUNITY NOTES FROM LEHIGH COUNTY AUTHORITY

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Clean drains and sewers – more than a pipe dream!

Here's a great rule of thumb for your plumbing: if it's not good for you, it's probably not good for your pipes and sewers either.

When people dump artery-clogging stuff down their sinks – like grease, cooking oils and animal fats – it gunks up the plumbing in your home and throughout the sewer system. And grease is just the beginning. Hazardous materials that you would never ingest – such as paints, petroleum-based oils, and other harsh chemicals – can cause major problems, too.

It's time we get the lard out and clean up our act. Putting harmful materials into the sewer system can damage pipes (and increase maintenance costs!) and pollute the environment. Proper disposal is the key. Here's how to keep your sanitary sewer system from going down the drain:

Know what to throw. The drain is not a garbage can. Avoid dumping oils, leftover foods, paper towels, hair, ashes, glass or wood chips down the drain. Use a proper garbage can.

Hazardous materials have their place. But not in your sewers! Herbicides, fertilizers, motor oil, paint residue and other common household hazardous materials should never go down the drain. Drop them off at your local hazardous waste collection site for proper disposal.

Make peace with grease. Grease might be your friend in the frying pan, but can be your enemy in the drain and sewer. It's the root cause of many back-ups. Never pour grease or food scraps down sinks or into toilets where they can clog up your plumbing system. Home garbage disposals won't keep grease out of the plumbing system either. Send your grease to the garbage!

Keep the rain out. Rain gutters, downspouts, sump pumps and basement floor drains should never be connected to the sewer system. If they are, a heavy rain can flood the system and cause messy backups. Drain the rain into your yard instead.

This message is brought to you by Lehigh County Authority.