

# EVERYTHING YOU FLUSH COMES TO US

We are asking for your cooperation to keep the wastewater treatment plant running efficiently.

**Did you know?** When you flush items that should not go down your drain, you are increasing your chances of a preventable sewer backup, which can pose a threat to human health and costly repairs.

Please review the Wastewater Do's and Don'ts and refer to the Wastewater Management District Commission's (WWMDC) Rules and Regulations on the Town's Website.

<https://www.wayland.ma.us/wastewater-management-district-commission>



## WAYLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



## CONTACT US



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## TOWN OF WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS WASTEWATER: WHAT CAN I FLUSH?

Wayland Wastewater Management District Commission  
66 River Road, Wayland, Massachusetts 01778

# WASTEWATER DO'S AND DON'TS

## ▶ WHAT CAN I FLUSH?

Human waste and toilet paper. That's it!

Flushing other materials could create problems for our wastewater system and could harm the environment. Toilet paper is specially formulated to break down in the sewer system, and other products (like sanitary wipes and paper towels) will not break down in the same way.

## ▶ WHAT CAN'T I FLUSH?

- Wipes (even if they are labeled "flushable")
- Hair
- Tissues and paper towels
- Plastic Bags
- Dental floss
- Tampons and sanitary pads
- Cat litter
- Condoms
- Oil-based hand scrubs
- Cotton swabs and cotton balls
- Medicines
- Rags & Rubber gloves
- Fats, oil, grease or any petroleum products
- Heavy-duty cleaning chemicals (bleach, ammonia)
- Paints, stains or paint thinner
- Any construction-related debris (metal shavings, PVC shavings, grout, etc.)



# WIPES CLOG PIPES

Disposable wipes do not break down the same way as toilet paper and should never be flushed. Even wipes that are marketed as "flushable" do not degrade and can cause clogs that are both costly and a danger to residents' water quality.

*A sewer pipe clogged primarily by "flushable" wipes that do not break down in the wastewater system.*



# KEEP OUR WATER PHOSPHATE FREE

Harmful algae blooms, like the ones seen at Lake Cochituate and other lakes in recent years, can be caused by the presence of excess phosphates in the water system. Excessive phosphates also impede our wastewater treatment process. Products such as fertilizer and industrial cleaning supplies often contain phosphates. Phosphate-free alternatives should be used to prevent algal blooms.

An algae bloom is a rapid increase or accumulation in the population of algae in freshwater or marine water systems. Algae blooms are the result of a nutrient, like nitrogen or phosphorus, entering the aquatic system and causing excessive growth of algae.

Algae blooms affect the ecosystem in many ways such as blocking the sunlight from reaching other organisms, depleting the oxygen levels in the water, and can secrete toxins into the water. Algae blooms can injure animals and lead to fish die-offs.



*Wayland's wastewater is fed through these three sewage pumps to undergo the water treatment process.*

# FATS, OIL AND GREASE

When cooking with fats, oil, and grease (FOG), never pour the excess down the drain. As these fats begin to cool down in drain pipes, they congeal, which can clog your drain and lead to expensive repairs. When FOG enters the wastewater system, it can lead to further blockages, which may cause sewer backups for yourself and other residents.

FOG should be properly disposed of by transferring it into a food-safe container, sealed with a lid, and then discarded in the trash.



*A sewer pipe clogged by congealed buildup of FOG.*