

SEWER SYSTEM BLOCKAGES ARE OCCURRING IN YOUR AREA

Help us protect the sewer system and stop blockages by putting the correct items down the toilet, sink and outdoor drains. Blockages are causing damage to Council's sewer system.

Sewer system blockages are occurring in your area due to the wrong type of items being put down the toilet, sink and outdoor drains.

When you pour waste and chemicals down the sink (including fats and oils) or toilet they can create environmental damage, block up your drains and overload the sewer system.

WHAT IS CAUSING THE BLOCKAGES?

Recently there has been an increase in solid items and fats and oils entering the sewer system, causing blockages to occur.

The sewer system is designed to treat degradable sewage only. Items such as flushable wipes, baby wipes, paper towels and other sanitary products are blocking the system in your area and these items should be put in a bag and binned, not flushed.

BLOCKAGES AND THE SEWER SYSTEM

Everything you put into the sewer has to be managed at some point by your local plumber or Council Staff.

Many substances can stick to or become caught in sewer pipes and the system. It is cheaper to dispose of waste responsibly than to pay for a plumber to clean out blocked drains.



Think before you flush the toilet or wash something down the sink.

These blockages can occur in your household sewer pipes, Council's sewer mains, pumping stations or the sewer treatment plant.

It is important that anything flushed disintegrates almost immediately, otherwise it is likely to get block or caught in pipes. A list of items that should and shouldn't go into the toilet, sink and outdoor drains is included over the page.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on protecting your sewer system call Council on:

T 02 6578 7290

W singleton.nsw.gov.au

E council@singleton.nsw.gov.au

PROTECTING THE SEWER SYSTEM

The sewer system is designed to treat degradable sewage so, to help ensure it works properly, here are some examples of what can and can't go down your sink, drains or toilet.

EXPERIENCING A BLOCKAGE?

If you are experiencing problems with your sewer such as gurgling noises, sinks and toilets are slow to drain or effluent is overflowing from your internal or external relief gully, follow these steps:

- Locate the sewer shaft, this is the pipe that leads to the sewer main. It should be flush to the ground and the lid is about the size of a bread and butter plate. Usually in the front or back yard.
- Unscrew or lift the lid, if the sewer shaft is full or overflowing or you feel any pressure when trying to remove the lid, stop immediately and do not proceed any further. Contact Council's Customer Service Centre on **T 02 6578 7290** as soon as practical and report the issue. If the sewer shaft is clear, contact a licensed plumber to attend and inspect the internal drains for a blockage.

Please discuss protecting the sewer system with all members of your household.

✓ WHAT CAN

ITEM	COMMENTS
Human Waste	Pee, poo and toilet paper
Fruit Juice	Only in small amounts, otherwise pour onto your garden compost
Milk	Only in small amounts, otherwise pour onto your garden compost
Water from kitchen sink, laundry & bathing	Using low phosphorus detergents is better for the environment

✗ WHAT CAN'T

ITEM	COMMENTS
Cat litter	Dispose along with household rubbish
Chemicals, pesticides, motors oils and lubricants	Contact Councils Waste Management Facility for information on services provided
Cooking oils and fats	Collect in a sealed container and dispose along with household rubbish
Cosmetics and cotton buds	Dispose along with household rubbish
Fruit and vegetable waste	Compost or dispose along with household rubbish
Household cleaners	Follow disposal directions on packaging
Household paint	Contact Councils Waste Management Facility for information on services provided
Nappies and sanitary products	Dispose along with household rubbish
Paper towel	Dispose along with household rubbish
Pills and medicines	Hand into the chemist in the original container
Seafood shells	Compost or dispose along with household rubbish
Socks, rags and clothes	Dispose along with household rubbish
Solid materials	Dispose along with household rubbish
Stormwater and yard drainage	Drains to the stormwater system
Toilet fresheners	Dispose along with household rubbish
Wet wipes and flushable wipes	Dispose along with household rubbish; including those labelled as flushable
Yoghurt and other dairy	Dispose along with household rubbish