

DRAINS AND SEWERS

How do I know when a drain is blocked?

You will usually know a drain is blocked because your waste will stop going away when you flush the toilet or gullies outside will overflow. There is also likely to be an undesirable smell.

What causes blockages?

Sewers are only designed to take away wastewater, toilet tissue, and human waste.

All other paper products, including kitchen roll and wet wipes, should be put in the bin. Sanitary items also contribute to some of the most troublesome blockages.

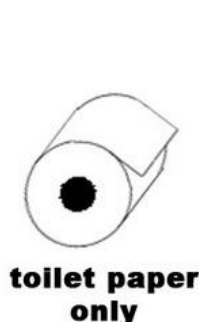
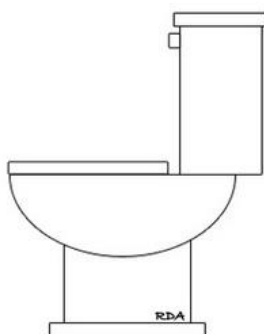
Most blockages are caused by cooking fat and oil, which congeal in the sewers, forming a thick layer around the pipe. This prevents sewage from flowing and can cause it to back up.

The biggest no-no is pouring cooking fat down the sink as it sets hard, forming 'fatberg' blockages.

This prevents sewage from flowing and can cause it to back up, especially when other unsuitable products such as wet wipes and sanitary items mix with the fat, leading to waste backing up into homes and streets, and having a devastating impact on the environment.



IGNORE THE HYPE: DON'T FLUSH A WIPE!



Top tips to keep your drains flowing

- Love your loo: Make sure that only wastewater, toilet tissue and human waste goes down your drains and into the sewer.
- Bin it - don't block it: Wrap up sanitary products, nappies, wet wipes and condoms and put them in the bin.
- Think - not in the sink! After cooking, fat, oil and grease should be left to cool - it can then be put in the bin or mixed with seeds and nuts to make a feeder for birds.
- Chemicals, solvents, engine oil and paint should be taken to your local refuse site.
- Medicines, tablets, syringes and needles should be taken to your pharmacist, local hospital or health authority for safe disposal.
- The biggest no-no is pouring cooking fat down the sink as it sets hard, forming 'fatberg' blockages. This prevents sewage from flowing and can cause it to back up, especially when other unsuitable products such as wet wipes and sanitary items mix with the fat, leading to waste backing up into homes and streets, and having a devastating impact on the environment.



How can I prevent drains and sewers from becoming blocked?

Never flush items such as nappies, wipes, cotton buds, food waste and sanitary towels down the toilet. These should be put in the bin.

- Never pour hot fat or grease down the sink. When it cools in the drain or sewer it sets and can build up overtime and cause blockages. Once fat gets into your drains or the sewer it can be very expensive and difficult to get rid of. Instead you should drain fat and grease into a suitable container and put it in the bin when cooled.

Never allow rubble, or other objects to fall into the drain or inspection chamber.



PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE ABOVE IMMEDIATELY – HELP US TO HELP YOU ENJOY YOUR HOME