

Keep these OUT of drains or toilets

Following are examples of items which can cause blockages or otherwise damage the sewer system. Please avoid putting these, or similar items, down your drains or toilets:

Disposable diapers	Hair
Sanitary napkins	Wax
Tampons/applicators	Kitty litter
Paper Towels	Baby wipes

The following items should be deposited at the nearest Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) collection facility:

Insecticides	Used motor oil
Cleaners/solvents	Antifreeze
Paint/thinners	Pesticides
Herbicides	Hobby supplies
Pool chemicals	Household batteries

Chesapeake's SPSA Collection Facility

901 Hollowell Lane
Chesapeake, VA 23320
(757) 547-1114

Materials may be dropped off on the 1st Wednesday and the last 2 Saturdays of each month.

SPSA 24-hour Information Line
(757) 424-4297

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If you have a Sewer Back-Up

Call Public Utilities FIRST



**Weekdays
(except holidays)
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(757) 382-CITY
382-2489**

**After Hours
and Holidays
(757) 382-3550**



Keep The Flow Going

What YOU can do
to keep Sanitary Sewers
and Household Plumbing
flowing



**Chesapeake
VIRGINIA**

**Public Utilities
Department**

Never Put Grease Down Your Drain

Most of the backups and blockages in the Chesapeake sanitary sewer system are caused by grease build-up.

Never put grease down your garbage disposal or any household drain. Grease hardens when it cools and sticks to the inside of pipes. As it builds up, the grease blocks the pipe and causes backups in your plumbing. When you clear the blockage, the grease moves down into the City sanitary sewer system, causing even more backups.

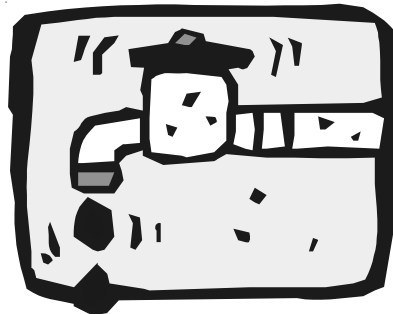
When sewers are clogged

- ◆ Raw sewage overflows into streets, parks and homes, as well as onto public and private property.
- ◆ Sewer customers in the area are unable to use the system.
- ◆ Homes, commercial, institutional and industrial operations are disrupted.
- ◆ Potential contact with disease-causing organisms increases.
- ◆ Sanitary sewer operation and maintenance costs go up, affecting your bill.

Plumbing system blockages are generally the responsibility of the property owner or tenant.

You Can Help

- ▶ **Grease Cans.** Garbage disposals do not stop grease from entering the plumbing or sanitary sewers.
Pour cooled grease and food scraps into a can and put it in the trash. Controlling grease at its source goes a long way toward preventing blockages and backups. You will also save yourself the inconvenience and cost of clearing the blockages.
- ▶ Catch food scraps and other solids in a basket or strainer in sinks. All food scraps, even those processed through a garbage disposal, can cause blockages in plumbing and sewer lines.
- ▶ Spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors about keeping grease out of their plumbing and out of City sewers.
- ▶ Keep your sinks and toilets flowing and flushing freely.
- ▶ Restaurants should routinely clean and service grease traps and interceptors.



In Case of Backups

If sewage backs up into your tub, sink or floor drain, quickly close all the drain openings with stoppers or plugs. Call Public Utilities immediately (see back panel for numbers).

A service crew will be sent to investigate the problem. If the blockage is in the city's sewer line, they will clear it at no charge to you. If the blockage is in your home or business plumbing, you will need to clear it yourself or contact a plumber.

Remember to call Public Utilities first. If the blockage is in the city's sewer lines, and the city is not given the initial opportunity to clear the lines, the city is not responsible for reimbursing you for a plumber's services.

Did You Know?

Chesapeake Public Utilities maintains many pumping stations and miles of sanitary sewer collection system lines.

Sewer lines are inspected using television cameras and smoke testing to detect cracks and broken or leaking joints. Early detection and repair prevents sewer service disruption. You can help by calling Public Utilities **first** if you have a backup in your home or notice water coming from the sewer cleanout.

Restaurants, apartment complexes, and commercial buildings may have traps or interceptors to keep grease out of the city sewer system.

These devices catch and hold waste, fat, oils and grease until a waste hauler or pumper service can dispose of it.