

Dos and Don'ts

Limit what you pour down the drain or flush down the toilet. Anything other than water can impact the sewer system.

✓ Ok to go Down the Drain:

- Cleaning products
- Dishwater
- Produce wash water (no dirt)

✗ NOT Ok to go Down the Drain:

- Garbage disposal (limit use, even if system is designed for one)
- Food waste
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds
- Fats, oils, and grease
- Chemicals
- Paint



✓ Ok to Flush:

- Toilet paper

✗ NOT Ok to Flush:

- Paper towels
- Cigarette butts
- Disposable diapers
- Wipes (baby or flushable)
- Menstrual products
- Plastics
- Medications
- Cotton (swabs or balls)
- Dental floss
- Toxic substances
- Hair
- Cat litter



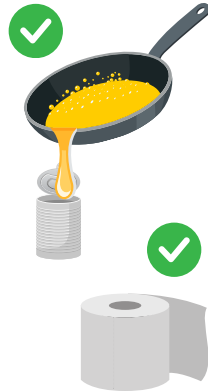
Sanitary sewer systems transport wastewater from homes and businesses to a treatment facility. If a sewer line becomes blocked or broken, raw sewage can escape the pipe causing a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO).

In an SSO event, raw sewage can overflow into your home, your neighborhood, or surrounding bodies of water. This can cause:

- An unpleasant mess
- Exposure to bacteria and viruses that can make you, your pets, or wildlife sick
- Expensive cleanup and repair



Help prevent SSOs by limiting what you put down your sink and in your toilet.



Dish soap, hot water, and garbage disposals do not dissolve grease poured down kitchen sinks.

Pour grease into a container, let it harden, and throw it in the trash.

Only flush toilet paper and human waste down the toilet.

For more information on SSO, visit www.epa.gov/npdes/sanitary-sewer-overflows-ssos or contact your local Board of Health.



A Homeowner's Guide to Being Sewer Smart

A Brochure for Sewer System Care

The purpose of a sewer system is to collect and dispose of household wastewater. Homeowners are responsible for maintaining the parts of the sewer system that serve their homes. This brochure will help you protect your investment and avoid the high cost of sewer system failure.

Public works
is here
for you!



If you suspect that sewer water is backing up into your home or yard contact Concord DPW right away.

978 - 318 - 3400

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A Homeowner's Guide to Being Sewer Smart

Proper maintenance is the key to ensuring a long life of the system. Your town cares for main sewer pipes. Homeowners must do their part to maintain the systems serving their homes.

Property Line Cleanout, Boxed to Grade

Provides access to the sewer line so that blockages can be removed. Box top is labeled "SEWER", with a water-tight plug or cap.

Trees and Shrubs

Prevent them from blocking the sewer line

Roof drain and sewer should never connect

Roof Drain

Bathroom

See what's ok to flush on the Dos and Don'ts panel

Kitchen

See what's ok for the drain on the Dos and Don'ts panel

Sump Pump
Never connect sump pump to sewer system

Manhole Cover
Provides access to sewer system

Protection
Cover sewer line to protect against freezing/frost

Home/ Building Cleanout

Upper Lateral
Upper lateral uses gravity to encourage wastewater flow. Sometimes pumps are required.

Backwater Prevention Device
Prevents sewage back up
(Required per Massachusetts Uniform State Plumbing Code for some properties.)



Property line

SEWER MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC AGENCY

SEWER MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROPERTY OWNER

Brought to you by the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative using material from the Water Environment Federation brochure and the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System brochure.



Infographic provided by the APHC

