

# What NOT to put down the Toilet, Drain or Garbage Disposal

(As per the County of SLO & City of Pismo Beach)

In order to prevent blockages, please refrain from dumping the following items down your toilet, sink, drain pipe or garbage disposal:

- fats, oils, cooking grease
- coffee grinds
- egg shells
- produce stickers
- chunks of garbage
- disposable diapers
- feminine hygiene products
- paper towels or rags
- flushable cat litter
- condoms
- bags/wrappings and cardboard
- motor oil, transmission fluids, anti-freeze or other toxic chemicals
- solvents, paints, nail polish or remover
- flammable or explosive substances
- corrosive substances acidic or caustic
- needles and sharps
- prescription and over-the-counter meds

## Why is this problem?

Any solid matter that you put down the toilet or drainpipe has the potential to cause blockages in either the public sewer or your own private drain. This can lead to:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home;
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup;
- Raw sewage overflowing into yards, and streets;
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms;
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which can cause higher sewer bills for customers; and
- Increased pollution due to sewage spills caused by the blockages.

Private drainage systems (the part of the drainage network between your home and the public sewer) use narrow pipe-work and sometimes have bends in them where solid objects can lodge and cause blockages. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain private drainage systems if there is no approved clean-out at the front property line.



Keep **produce labels** out of the drain!