

PUBLIC WORKS

Edition

7 Items You Should Never Flush Down the Toilet

To keep you from feeling embarrassed, saving a bunch of money on costly plumbing bills, and helping protect our planet, check out this list of things you should never, ever flush down the toilet.

- Paper towels and wipes can cause blockages in your system if flushed, as they don't break down the same way that toilet paper does.
- Whether it's cotton swabs or cotton pads, any cotton product is unsafe to flush.
- Flushing dental floss can damage your pipes and cause environmental damage; it tends to create a net that catches debris and can wrap around septic system parts, potentially burning out the motor.
- Feminine products like tampons and pads should never be flushed, as they are designed to absorb water and will expand when flushed.
- Hair acts as a net, clumping and catching floating debris in pipes; it never dissolves and increases the risk of clogs.
- Flushing medication and hazardous materials pollutes water; the proper disposal method is to use drug take-back sites or community collection programs.
- Diapers are meant to absorb water and will not break down; flushing them can cause costly plumbing damages. Dispose of dirty diapers in a diaper bin.



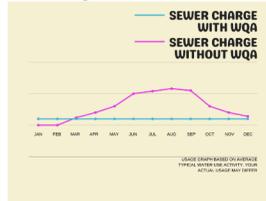
EyeOnWater App



The EyeOnWater app is a free and handy tool for customers of City of White Settlement. It lets you keep an eye on your daily water use, catch leaks early with helpful alerts, understand your consumption patterns daily, weekly, or monthly—and compare your usage over time to save water and money. To sign up, all you have to do is link your account with your water bill info and zip code, and you'll get detailed graphs, leak notifications, and easy-to-understand insights to help you manage your water use. It's a great way to stay on top of your water habits, conserve resources, and avoid surprise high bills caused by unseen leaks like dripping pipes. You can find the app on Google Play and the Apple Store. Don't forget to turn on your notifications, this lets you get alerts and prevents you from missing important info that can save you money.

Winter Quarterly Averaging

The City of White Settlement utilizes Winter Quarterly Averaging (WQA) to determine your annual sewer rate. This method involves reviewing your water usage from November, December, January, and February, and excluding the month with the highest consumption. The average of the remaining months is used to establish your fixed monthly sewer charge for the upcoming year. This approach encourages water conservation during the winter months, which can contribute to overall cost savings on your utility bills throughout the rest of the year.



ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

Storm drains serve an important purpose; however, when they become full with leaves, debris, and pollutants, problems can occur. Clogged storm drains can lead to flooding, creating safety issues during rain events. In addition, if a storm drain has pollutants present, this can negatively impact water quality. As water flows through the storm drain system, it can pick up and carry those pollutants and may contaminate nearby creeks and lakes. This is why it's important to remember that only rain should go down the drains!

Here is a list of what not to put into the drains:

Trash, litter, cigarettes, plastic bags, bottles, food wrappers, leaves, grass clippings, mulch, dirt, chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, pesticides, herbicides, pet waste, medications, fats, oils or grease.



WHAT IS F.O.G.?

F.O.G. stands for Fats, Oils, and Grease — those are the leftovers from cooking and food prep that can cause clogs if they go down your drain. Things like meat fats, shortening, butter, cooking oils, and sauces are common sources. When these substances go down the drain, they can cool off and harden inside sewer pipes, leading to costly blockages and backups. Not only can this damage City infrastructure, but it can wreak havoc on your personal plumbing as well. To prevent this from happening, avoid pouring cooking oil, greasy foods, dairy, or salad dressing down the drain. Use a strainer in your sink to catch food scraps and solids before they go down. Instead of rinsing greasy dishes with hot water and soap, let the grease cool and then pour it into a disposable container with a lid. Bring the cooled grease to 8212 Albert Street for the City's cooking grease pickup.

