

## Homeowner's Responsibility

The pipes throughout your home that collect wastewater are a homeowner's responsibility. Keeping these pipes free of debris—like hair or grease—keeps them functioning properly.

The section of pipe that runs beneath your home to the property line is also a homeowner's responsibility. If that section of pipe gets clogged with large objects being flushed down a toilet, by a large amount of grease from the kitchen sink, or by roots of the trees on your front lawn, it is the homeowner's responsibility to have it cleared out.

Remember, sinks and toilets are not a garbage can. Please dispose of diapers, large objects, hair and grease into the garbage and not into your pipes. Backups are most commonly caused by items that never should have been flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain.

The suggestions in this brochure can help avoid an unpleasant back up and can save you money too!



### Concerns/Questions

If you have concerns or questions about water quality, wastewater collection and treatment, system pressure, possible leaks, or billing inquiries please feel free to contact the Township Office at (705) 325-2315. Our hours of operation are from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday (excluding Holidays).

### Billing Dates

First Quarter	Mid-January
Second Quarter	Mid-April
Third Quarter	Mid-July
Fourth Quarter	Mid-October



**TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN**

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN

P.O. Box 159, Orillia, Ontario, L3V 6J3

Phone: 705-325-2315  
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*Sanitary  
Sewer System  
Do's and  
Don'ts*

## Household Grease

When warm fats, oils and greases are washed into the sewer system they float. As they cool, the fats, oils and greases become solid and stick to the inside wall of the sewer pipes. Over time, the grease will build up and can block the entire pipe.



### WHAT IS THE RESULT?

You may think that once it is gone down the drain, it simply washes away and is gone for good. But that is not the case. The resulting build up in the pipes can cause a number of problems:

- Blocked sewers.
- A possible overflow of raw sewage into your home, business, or neighbouring property, causing basement flooding— an expensive and unpleasant clean up.
- A raw sewage overflow into parks, yards, streets, creeks, rivers and the lake.
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs to clean and repair damaged sewer pipes.


## Help Prevent Back Ups

**Certain items should not be disposed of in the sanitary sewer system. The following items should be disposed of in your Green Bin or trash can, NOT in the sanitary sewer system:**

- **Cooking Grease and Oil**
- **Food Debris**
- **Diapers, Baby wipes or Cleaning Cloths**
- **Feminine Hygiene Products (including tampon applicators)**
- **Dental Floss**
- **Hair**
- **Paper towels**
- **Band Aids**
- **Q-Tips**
- **Tooth Picks**
- **Drinking Straws**
- **Male Contraceptive Devices**
- **Plastic Material**
- **Rags**
- **Dirt, Rocks and Stone**
- **Kitty Litter**
- **Household Hazardous Waste**
- **Sump Pump Water**



## Good Things to Do

- NEVER pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Let grease cool and scrape it and food scraps into your Green Bin or collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage. 
- Put basket/strainers into sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids. Empty the drain basket/strainer into the Green Bin for disposal.
- Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste. Disposable diapers, male contraceptive devices and personal hygiene products do not belong in the sewer system.

### Who Pays for the Damage?

Did you know that most basic homeowner's insurance policies do not cover sewer or basement drain backups? In most cases additional coverage needs to be added to the policy to protect homeowners from backups. Contact your insurance agent for more information on adding this to your policy.