

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS IN THE HOME

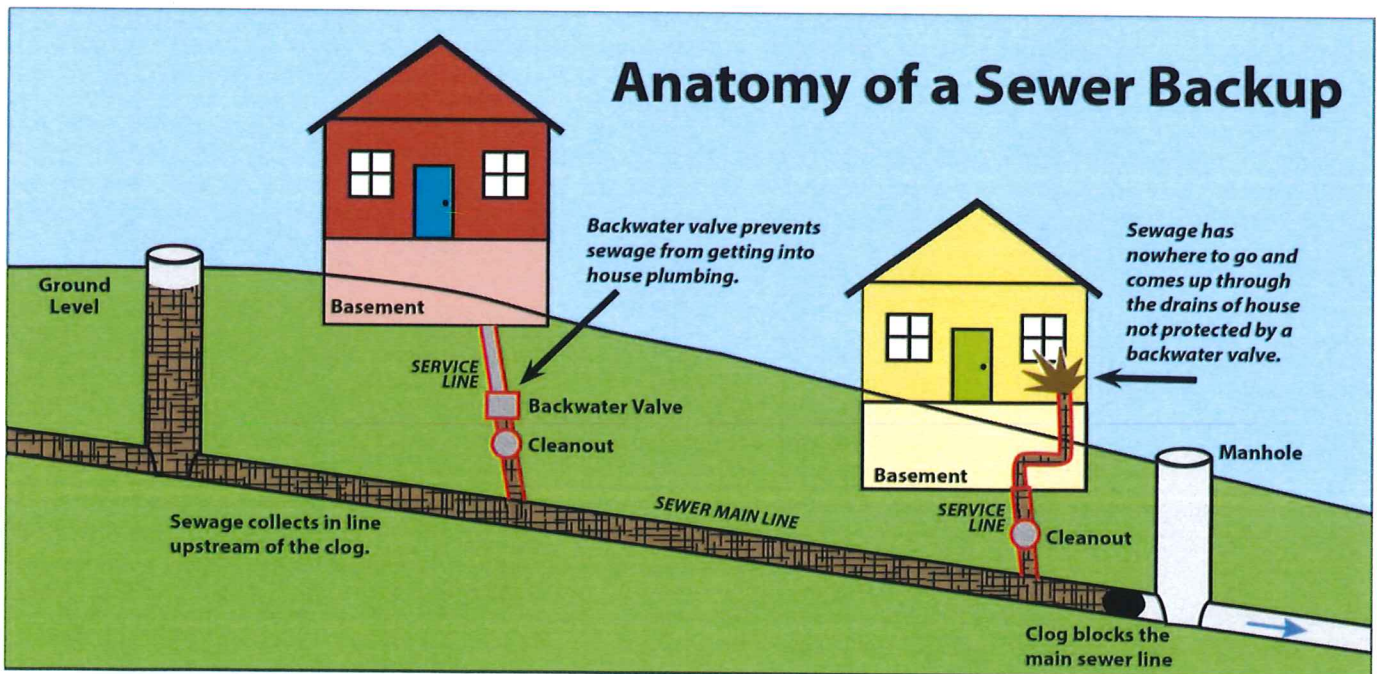
Most sewer backups in a home are caused by improper disposal of waste into toilets and drains. The following items should **NOT** be discarded into toilets or drains:

- Fats,
- Oils or Grease from Cooking
- Solid Food Particles
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Paper Towels

These items do not break down in the sewer pipes and will cause backups in homes. The improper disposal of these items will create serious maintenance and health issues for the homeowner and the wastewater collection and treatment systems.

When fats, oils, or grease are poured down a sink, these products will solidify once they have cooled down in the sewer pipes and cause a blockage. If you think running hot water in the sink will help disperse this matter, you're wrong! Hot water may get this matter out of your sink drain, but as soon as the water cools down, these products will solidify in your sewer pipes. This build-up will restrict flow and accumulate in the pipes, which in combination with other materials that shouldn't be flushed, will cause sewerage to back up into a home and often cause blockages in the main sewer system located in the street.

Residents should be aware that some of these products are labeled as 'Flushable' but are only assumed to be. A vast majority of these products do not break down like toilet paper and create problems in households and the collection system, pumping stations, and wastewater treatment facilities.



¹ <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/water-resources/customer-service-for-residents-and-businesses/sanitary-sewer-backup-policy>