**Properly Dispose of Waste**

Whether you flush it down the toilet, grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink, shower, or bath, everything that goes down your drain ends up in your septic system. What goes down the drain affects how well your septic system works.

**Toilets aren’t trash cans!**

Your septic system is not a trash can. An easy rule of thumb is not to flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. Never flush:

* Cooking grease or oil
* Non-flushable and flushable wipes, such as baby wipes or other wet wipes
* Feminine hygiene products
* Condoms
* Dental floss
* Diapers
* Cigarette butts
* Photographic solution
* Coffee grounds
* Cat litter
* Paper towels
* Pharmaceuticals
* Household chemicals like gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint or paint thinners

**Think at the sink!**

Your septic system contains a collection of living organisms that digest and treat household waste. Pouring toxins down your drain can kill these organisms and harm your septic system. Whether you are at the kitchen sink, bathtub, or utility sink:

* Avoid chemical drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake.
* Never pour cooking oil or grease down the drain.
* Never pour oil-based paints, solvents, or large volumes of toxic cleaners down the drain. Even latex paint waste should be minimized.
* Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal. This will significantly reduce the amount of fats, grease, and solids that enter your septic tank and could clog the drainfield.

**What can I flush down the toilet?**

* Only flush human waste and toilet paper down the toilet.

SOURCE: EPA - Last update June 21, 2023