

Drains, toilets, and trash cans are not all the same. Disposing of trash down drains and toilets can cause harm to human health and our local environment.



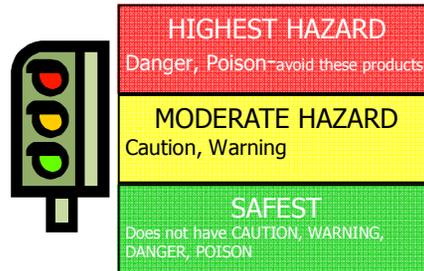
Using drains and toilets as trash cans may create sewer overflows into streets and water bodies.

Treatment plants effectively remove toilet paper from wastewater; all other garbage should go in the trash can.

## Hazardous Waste Disposal

Products that are hazardous should not go down your sink, toilet, storm drains, or in the trash can. A product is hazardous if the label says: CAUTION—WARNING— DANGER—POISON.

Avoid hazardous products when you shop. Read the label first!



- Choose products with little or no scent; avoid aerosols.
- Buy only what you need
- Follow label instructions. For a list of safer household products, go to: [www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/)



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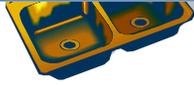
## Let's Talk Trash



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**In the Kitchen:**

- Grease & produce stickers = trash
- Food = garbage or compost



Grease sticks to household and sewage pipes. Over time, grease build-up will block the entire pipe and result in raw sewage backing up into your home or overflowing into the street or waterway. Follow these four simple steps to keep things running smoothly.

**DON'T** put produce stickers down the drain.

**DON'T** put grease, fats, or oil of any type down your drain or garbage disposal.

**DO** use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and empty them into the trash or compost bin.

**DO** scrape grease and food scraps from cooking surfaces into a container and put in the trash can or compost.

**In the Bathroom:  
Think trash not toilets...**

Flushing the wrong thing down the toilet damages your household plumbing, your environment, and the wastewater treatment system. If it isn't biodegradable, put it in the trash instead of the toilet.



Band-aids & bandage wrappers



Dental floss & teeth whitening strips



Kitty litter

**THESE ITEMS BELONG IN THE TRASH CAN**



Cleaning wipes



Condoms



Cotton balls, swabs & pads



Disposable diapers, nursing pads & baby wipes



Facial Wipes



Hair



Expired & unused medications



Mini & maxi pads



Tampons & applicators