

OPERATION
Ripple Effect™

DOWN THE DRAIN

Your Operation Ripple Effect™ guide to what should—and shouldn't—go down your sewer drains.

The Cost

- » **Environmental:** While wastewater treatment methods work effectively for sewage, these processes are not designed for other materials. Items that are improperly disposed of in the sanitary sewer can cause clogs that result in backups into homes and overflows into the Mohawk River.
- » **Financial:** Another consequence of improper disposals is the cost it takes to clear system blockages and fix equipment that has been broken. Each incident of a blockage or broken equipment can cost taxpayers thousands of dollars in materials and man-hours to fix.

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The Solution

It is **critical for everyone** to do their part and avoid disposal of improper materials through the sanitary sewer system. Not sure what that means? See the other side of this tag to learn more about what should *and shouldn't* go down the drain.

SEE REVERSE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Operation Ripple Effect is a program of the Oneida County Water Quality & Water Pollution Control that asks residents, businesses, and municipalities to do their part to reduce overflows. Together, we can help keep the Mohawk River clean.

Learn more! rippleeffectocsd.org

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“FLUSHABLE” WIPES

They're convenient, durable, and especially helpful for potty training toddlers. **But please don't flush them!** While brands claim wipes are “septic-safe” or “flushable,” the fact is that these wipes do not break down. Instead, the wipes wrap around pumps and other equipment, resulting in expensive repairs. If you decide to use wipes, **please dispose of them in the garbage.**



FATS, OILS, AND GREASE

Warm or hot fats, oils, and grease, also known as FOG, are often liquids and may not seem like a big problem. But when these liquids cool, they solidify and clog pipes. Instead, carefully pour warm (not hot!) FOG into jars, cans, and/or other containers. Once cooled, dispose of the container in the trash or drop it off—at no charge—at the **Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority's Utica EcoDrop** on Leland Avenue during normal business hours.

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AND MORE...

Other non-biodegradables that should never be disposed of in the sewer system:

- » **Hazardous waste:** Paint, gasoline, cleansers, and other chemically-laden materials
- » Hygiene products
- » Rubber or latex
- » Prescription drugs
- » Dental floss
- » Kitty litter

