



For Immediate Release

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**PROPER DISPOSAL CAN SAVE YOUR MONEY
FROM GOING DOWN THE DRAIN**

Just like the water coming out of the tap, most people don't think twice about water or other substances going down the drain. Using a little more caution and consideration when it comes to waste disposal can save you, your community and your water provider money, time and headaches.

We all know the disheartening feeling when a sink won't drain or a toilet overflows. These clogs can easily be avoided with a few simple tips.

Normally the culprit of clogged drains is grease. It's important to dispose of fats such as bacon grease and cooking oils with your normal trash disposal. It is also important to properly dispose of sauces, gravies, dressings, meat fats and leftover food that could also solidify with fats in the home's pipes.

Each time you pour these greasy and oily substances down the drain, you are gradually coating the sewer pipes on your property and in the streets. A lot of people think that using a garbage disposal or running hot water while dumping grease will prevent blockages – this is not true. Hot water will more than likely push the clog farther and the disposal is only effective at breaking down solids.

Eventually, the pipes will become completely clogged, which may result in overflows and sewer backups. It can cost homeowners a small fortune to repair and clean up the mess, not to mention the time and inconvenience it can cost you and your neighbors. If the clogs happen in pipes off of your property, it can still cost you. Repair costs are often passed on to the utility's consumers.

To avoid pipe blockages, you should empty cooking grease into a container with a lid such as an old coffee can and throw it away with your trash. Scraping foods and grease off of dishes and into the garbage will help you avoid a clog.

Grease isn't the only thing that shouldn't be flushed or poured down the drain. Several other common household items can cause major damage to pipes. Dental floss, egg and nut shells, coffee grounds, cat litter, hair, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, and disposable diapers can clog sewer pipes.

Recent news has reported another wastewater concern that affects communities and environments throughout the country. Many people dispose of expired or unneeded medicines by flushing or pouring them down the drain. While this may keep the drugs out of reach of children, it ultimately pollutes the water. It is best to contact your local pharmacy to see if they offer a drug recycling program. If this is not offered in your area, you can crush the expired pills, place them in a sealable bag with a little bit of water and throw it in the trash. If it is a liquid medicine, be sure to add sawdust or kitty litter to prevent it from being consumed, after it is thrown in the trash.

Although most of items are purposely washed down the drain or toilet, we all know that sometimes items accidentally fall into the drain. Avoid losing valuables such as jewelry and dentures by placing them away from the sink and toilet. Once down the drain, valuables are difficult to retrieve. You may end up clogging the pipes... or making the day of a wastewater operator.

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About the Brazos River Authority

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties; extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The Authority built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the Authority contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority owns and operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land. Through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Brazos River Authority operates wastewater treatment plants at Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, the city of Hutto and the city of Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), and the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment plant for the City of Dime Box. A water treatment plant for the City of Leander is operated by the Brazos River Authority through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the Authority samples and tests water from 157 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.