

## **Drain Care - Public Sewer and Septic Systems**

There is a lot of information regarding what you can put in your toilet. Whether you are connected to the public sewer system or have a septic tank, there are items that should never go into your system. Below is a list of commonly found items that are found when drain lines are clogged.

- Paper towels
- Q-tips
- Feminine hygiene products (tampons; plastic or cardboard tampon dispensers; pads; plastic coverings for pads)
- Diapers/Pull-Ups
- Baby wipes/facial wipes (even if they say “flushable” – DON’T!)
- Paper cups
- Dog hair
- Balls of cooking grease with various items stuck inside (as cooking grease cools in the drains lines and begins to harden, various items get stuck and start to bind together, creating a smaller and smaller passageway for waste, eventually causing a clog in the line.)

When your system becomes clogged and the sewer lines have to be cleaned by a professional, the lines are opened and the items causing the clog are often very obvious. If the clog is determined to be caused by items being put into the system that should be put in the trash instead, this may be a tenant expense.

***\*\*\*If your home is connected to a septic system, contact Black Bear Rentals for specific information regarding products that may be provided by the owner to ensure that your system remains clear and clog free.***

**\*\*\*If your home is connected to the public sewer system, the MSD website has the following information:**

### **Think Trash, Not Toilet!**

Why put trash in a trash can, not the toilet? Trash, hair and grease in the sewer pipes create overflows which can harm human health and the French Broad River. Wastewater treatment plants use natural processes to turn dirty water into clean water and fertilizer before it is returned to the environment. Not all chemicals found in medicines, cleaners and personal products can be removed during treatment.

How to dispose of trash properly:

- Don't put grease, fats, or oil of any type down your drain or garbage disposal.
- 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. Remember, think trash not toilets.

- Choose natural, simple, biodegradable products and help keep chemicals out of our environment. Nothing disappears - drains and toilets are the first step to a clean French Broad River.

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