

Down the Drain?



The Tech
Interactive



Valley Water

Everything we put down the drain affects the rivers and oceans around us. Water from our homes flows through pipes to treatment plants before it is released into local waterways.



Protect your pipes and the environment with these tips!

	✓ Drain	✗ Dispose
Bathroom Toilet 	The 3 P's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pee • poop • toilet paper <p>wipes, even "flushable ones" do not break down</p>	Everything else! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cat litter • tissues, paper towels • cotton balls & swabs • diapers • tampons & pads • bleach • medicine
Bathroom Sink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mouthwash • toothpaste <p>absorbent things (cotton balls, diapers, cat litter) expand in water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dental floss • contacts • chewing gum
Bath/Shower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soap, body wash • shampoo, conditioner <p>stringy items (hair, dental floss) can wrap around things, making nets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hair • harsh chemicals in household cleaners and drain cleaners
Kitchen Sink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drinks • glue (water-based) • paint (water-based) <p>grease sticks to the inside of pipes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOG (fat, oil and grease) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peanut butter - lots of milk and dairy products • stringy vegetables • coffee grounds • eggshells • produce labels • latex and oil-based paint
Outside Storm Drain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rain water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaves and yard waste • pet waste • trash • soapy water • pesticides and fertilizers • motor oil and other automotive fluids • construction materials and paint

Did you know?



Preventing clogs helps the environment too. Clogs can damage equipment at water treatment plants and lead to overflows.



Some chemicals do not break down in water treatment plants. They make it into our bays and rivers, where they can be toxic to wildlife.



Look here for greener cleaning products: [Safer Choice](#).



Use safer pesticides & fertilizers: [Our Water, Our World](#).



Microplastics from contact lenses and labels can get into the ocean and eventually our food supply.



Running cold water down the garbage disposal helps keep things from melting and then solidifying later in the pipes.



Hosing off your car or pavement washes soap and grease down the drain. Use a commercial car wash or wash on grass and dirt.



Many storm drains go straight into our local waterways. Even pet waste can carry disease and cause harm to wildlife.



Get tips to prevent stormwater pollution: [My Watershed Watch](#).

Need more information about what you can dispose of where? Check out sanjoserecycles.org.

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