



- \* Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans and dishes with paper towels and dis-pose of materials in the trash.
- \* Pour FOG after it has cooled into a container, such as an empty glass jar or coffee can. Once the container is full, secure the lid and place it in the trash. For large volumes, contact your local agency for recycling options.
- \* FOG coats pipelines similar to the way fatty foods clog human arteries. The grease clings to the inside of the pipe, eventually causing complete blockage.
- \* Don't empty waste from a deep fryer down the drain.

### How and where should I report a sewer backup?

If a Town resident or building owner has a sewer backup problem, he/she should call the Water Pollution Control Division at 203-385-4065 at any time, 24 hours a day including weekends and holidays. Should the operator on duty not pickup; your call will be forwarded to an answering service. It is the responsibility of the answering service to notify and employee of the Water Pollution Control Division with your message. Someone will return your call. Residents should state that they are reporting a sewer emergency. Backed up sewer lines, and overflowing manholes are considered an emergency.

### Interesting Facts:

The Town's Water Pollution Control Facility is located at the east end of Birdseye Street, adjacent to the Town's Boat Launching Ramp. The facility is manned and operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Presently the facility is designed to process 11.5 million gallons of sewage per day to parameters established by the EPA. In 1996 the Facility was given an award for "Best Operation and Maintenance Excellence in Region I". The original Facility dates back to 1919. Since 1919 the Facility has received several upgrades and has just completed a major upgrade.

### What you Flush or Pour down your drain affects the Rivers, Lakes, and Water Ways in Stratford

*Where does the water go after you flush the toilet or drain the sinks in your home?*

It flows through Stratford's sanitary sewer system to a wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater from homes, along with wastewater from businesses, industries, and other facilities, is treated by a variety of processes to reduce or remove pollutants.

*What happens to the treated water when it leaves the wastewater treatment plant?*

It's released into the Housatonic River where it's used again for any number of purposes, such as irrigating crops, sustaining aquatic life and eventually it makes its way to Long Island Sound.

# WPCA

## TOWN OF STRATFORD

550 Patterson Avenue

Stratford, Connecticut 06614

Phone: 203-385-4080

Fax: 203-385-4082

Email:

[publicworks@townofstratford.com](mailto:publicworks@townofstratford.com)

Hours:

Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 3:00 pm

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

# Sewer and Lateral Maintenance Information



## WPCA

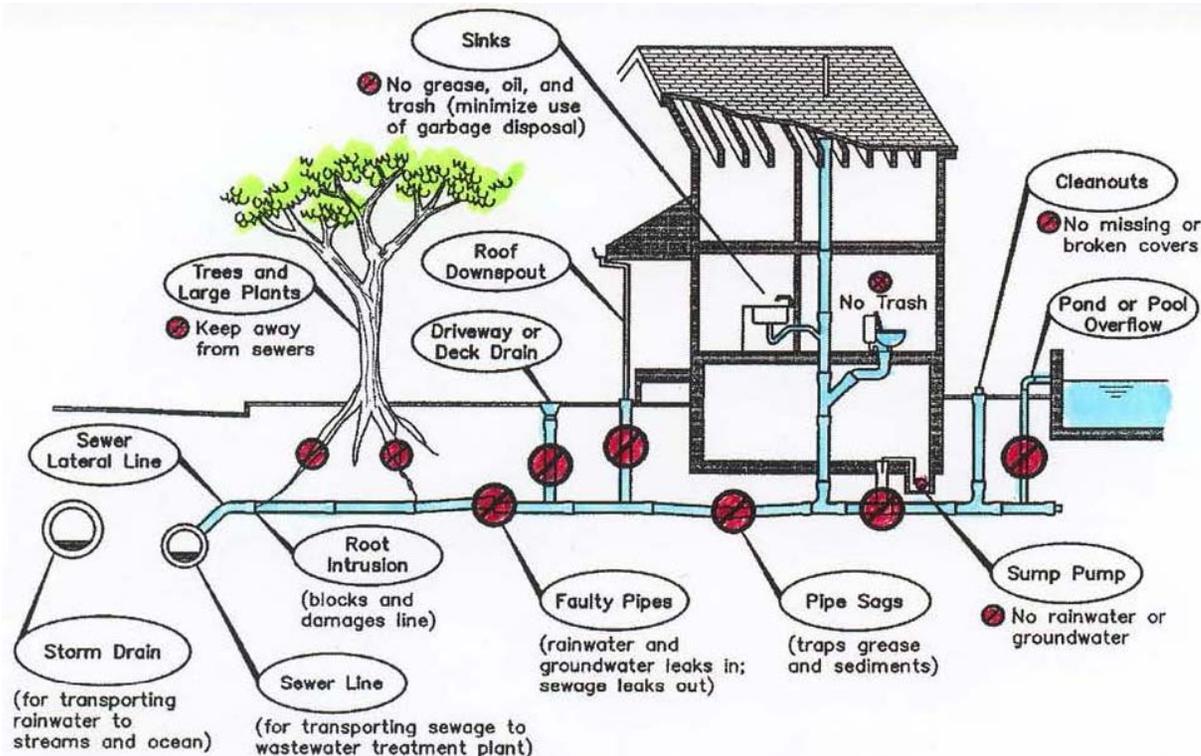
Tel: 203-385-4065

TOWN OF STRATFORD



# Not Down My Drain

- \* Fats, Oils and Grease
- \* Baby Wipes and Diapers
- \* Feminine Products
- \* Paints and Stains
- \* Motor Oil, Auto Fluids
- \* Household Cleaners
- \* Beauty Products
- \* Lawn Care Products
- \* Photographic Supplies
- \* Paper Towels/Napkins
- \* Meat & Poultry Bones
- \* Medicines, Needles
- \* Egg Shells, Fruit Pits
- \* Coffee Grounds



## Help Prevent Sewage Spills!

Keep grease, trash, rainwater and roots out of our sewer system!!

**The lateral (the connection from the house to the street) is the responsibility of the owner of the property and repairs can be very costly.**

### Common Causes of Backups

More often than not, the cause of a backup in your lateral is from items that the line is not meant to handle, such as kid's toys, underwear, towels, diapers, baby wipes, paper products (other than toilet paper), keys, etc. To avoid flushing these items, re-member to close the toilet lid. What you flush down the toilet may not affect you, but it might cause problems for your neighbors!

### Tree Roots

Don't plant trees with shallow, spreading root systems near your sewer lateral. Shrubs and trees, seeking moisture, will make their way into sewer lateral cracks. These roots can do a lot of damage.

They may start out small, getting into a small crack in the pipe; but as the tree or shrub continues to grow, so does the root. After time this causes your sewer lateral to break, which allows debris to hang up in the sewer lateral, thus causing a backup.

### Grease Blockage Prevention

Preventing grease-related sewer blockages and overflows benefits your home, your pocketbook and the environment. Approximately 80 percent of grease-related sewer blockages and overflows occur in residential areas.

- \* Fat's, Oil's & Grease (FOG) should NEVER be poured down the sink. Sink drains and garbage disposals are not designed to properly handle these materials.
- \* Use sink strainers to catch food items, then empty the strainer into the trash.