

# Don't Dam the Drain

Don't do like the Beaver.  
Don't block your stream.



## **A beaver dam stops a flowing river.**

Beavers build homes called dams. These dams are usually built across a flowing body of water such as a river. The beavers block the river by cutting down trees by chewing on them until they fall. Then they drag them across the stream and stick them together with mud.

The good effect of the dam is to create a lake, which is storage space for their winter food and protection from predators.

The side-effect is flooding, which drowns vegetation and any creatures that cannot escape, and sometimes ruins places where people live.



## **A sewer blockage stops a flowing sewer.**

Humans build homes connected to a sewer. The sewer allows sewage to flow away to a Treatment Plant. The humans block the sewer by creating waste products. They throw pieces of rubbish down the toilet and stick them together by pouring cooking grease down the sink.

The good effect of the blockage is that the humans have less work to do in throwing things away, and in cleaning their cooking implements.

The side-effect is flooding, which kills vegetation and creatures that cannot escape the runoff down the waterways to the sea, and always ruins places where people live.

Fat, oil and grease from cooking are like mud. They stick inside the drain pipes. Food scraps, cotton bud sticks and other rubbish stick to the pipes. Then the rubbish is coated with grease, more scraps come, and it all builds up.

Drains like this have a bad smell. That smell brings mice and rats to your neighbourhood.

When a sewer pipe is blocked then the sewage still coming down the pipe has to go somewhere. It goes out of the nearest manhole, gully trap, or toilet above the blockage in a "sewage fountain".

**Put your food scraps in the rubbish bin. Non-meat scraps can be composted.**

**Pour your cooking grease into a tough container and throw it away when full.**

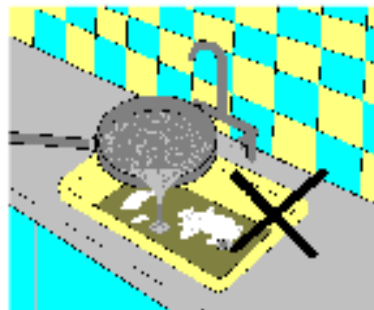
**Put a bin with a lid in the bathroom for all sanitary waste.**

See the website [www.fatrap.co.nz](http://www.fatrap.co.nz) for details of the **Fat Trap™**, the purpose-built container for storing fat, oil and grease in the kitchen.

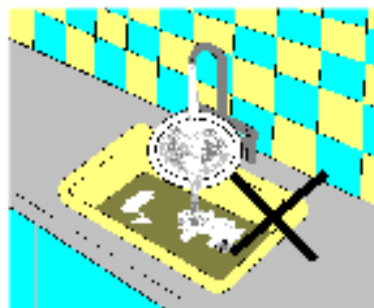
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# How to [Not] Block your Kitchen Sink

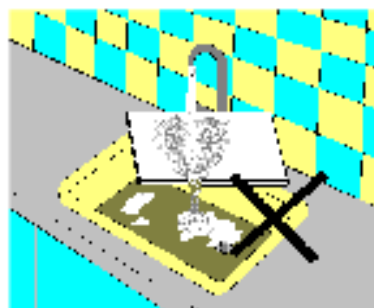
## BAD IDEAS!



**Bad Idea to** pour fat, oil and grease down the sink or an outside drain



**Bad Idea to** wash all the grease off with hot water

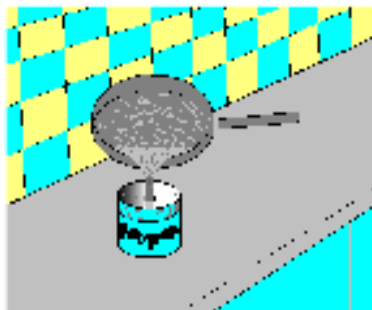


**Bad Idea to** clean all the grease off boards and work surfaces with hot water

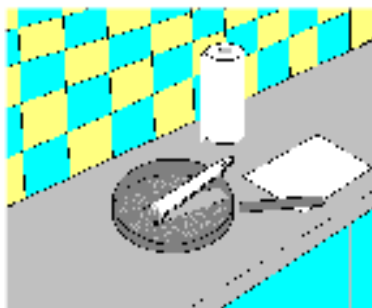


**Bad Idea to** put food scraps down the sink or an outside drain

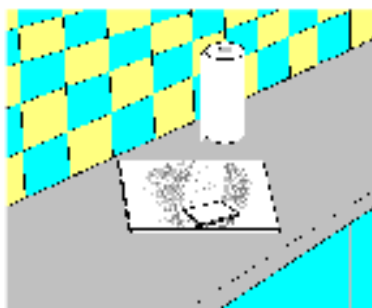
## GOOD IDEAS!



**Better to** pour fat, oil and grease into a storage container such as a "Fat Trap"™



**Better to** take most of the grease off with a scraper and kitchen paper before washing



**Better to** wipe boards and work surfaces with kitchen paper before washing



**Better to** put all food scraps in the bin, or put meat scraps in the bin and the rest in a garden composter

**Using Good Ideas will avoid a Blocked Sink.**

See [www.fattrap.co.nz](http://www.fattrap.co.nz) website for lots more information.