

Safe Disposal of Household Waste



Everything you put down the toilet or sink comes out at the treatment plant.

Only sewage, toilet paper and waste water should go down there.

Here is how to handle everything else.

Bathroom

Disposable nappies, liners and wipes – Wrap well and put in with your household rubbish. You can flush away the solids from a nappy - never the nappy itself - down your toilet. Nappy disposal bags are available from supermarkets and pharmacies, as are reusable nappies.

Razor blades – Never flush blades down your toilet. To avoid injury, place used blades in a rigid container that you were going to put in with the household rubbish anyway.

Packaging, toilet roll tubes, contact lenses, cotton buds, backing strips – Put them in with your household rubbish. A bin can be kept in the bathroom for used products.

Sanitary towels, tampons and panty liners – Wrap well and put them in with your household rubbish. Special disposal bags are available at pharmacies and supermarkets. In public toilets, place them in the sanitary disposal bin provided.

Condoms, incontinence pants, and used plasters and bandages – Wrap well and put them in with your household rubbish.

Medicines – Do not flush them down your toilet **or** put them in with your household rubbish. They will kill the natural bugs that clean the sewage or contaminate the landfill. Return all unwanted, out of date, or left over medicines to your local pharmacy for safe disposal. Always keep medicines out of reach of children.

Used syringes and needles – Drug users should make use of the Needle Exchange Programme (www.needle.co.nz). Other people should contact their local pharmacy to learn which pharmacies accept them.

Kitchen

Cooking fat and oil – You can pour warm – not hot – fat and oil into a plastic container with a secure lid, and later put that in with your household rubbish. You can allow fat to cool and solidify, then scrape it out with a spatula, wrap it in some newspaper or aluminium foil and dispose of it with your household rubbish.

All other solids – Wrap well if necessary, and dispose of with your household rubbish.

All other liquids – Oil, paint and chemicals can kill the natural bugs that clean the sewage. Small amounts of left-over paint should be allowed to dry and the tin put in with your household rubbish. Wash water or thinners from painting can go down your laundry sink or gully trap. Engine oil and radiator water should go to the hazardous wastes area of the landfill.

For anything else, ask your Local Authority for advice.