

The Village Voice

The Village of Ada will be running informational articles about Village policies and services currently offered. These articles will be for informational purposes only, and further details and the complete Codified Ordinances may be found on the Village website, www.adaohio.org, or by calling the Village Water Office at 419-634-4045.

Don't put WHAT, WHERE???

The things we think we, as consumers, can put down our drains and toilets aren't always what the drains are made to handle. Some of the items are a matter of common sense. Would you ever think to put rags down the drain or toilet as a means of disposal? Probably not. And, even though they are marketed as 'disposal' diapers, it is still a pretty good idea to avoid trying to flush them down the toilet. The same thinking should be applied to feminine hygiene products of any type.

One item that seems to skirt the common sense call is flushable cat litter. After all, it is marketed specifically to be flushed. Now, let's take a quick look at one possible scenario: you flush Fifi's cat litter-covered byproduct down your toilet. You push the lever, and wait. The water rises, and rises, and rises. The toilet starts to overflow. Even though those grains of cat litter may seem harmless, they have just caused your toilet to back up. Now you have not only the cat's byproduct overflowing on your bathroom floor, you could also have your own laying there. That's a great way to ruin an otherwise good day.

Some of the other culprits that top the list of things to NOT put down the sanitary sewer system include: coffee grounds, egg shells, produce stickers, condoms, bags, cardboard, grease, fat or oils of any kind, corrosive substances and over the counter and prescription medications.

Let's talk about what happens when these things do end up down the drain. Naturally, the idea of raw sewage floating around your bathroom, yard, or down our streets due to a clogged drain isn't a pleasant idea for anyone. It makes you think about the clean up, the smell, and the potential disease-causing organisms, none of which are pleasant.

Probably even closer to home is the financial burden. On the common financial burden end, increased blockages from solid matter could cause the cost of operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system to go up. On the personal financial burden end, you could have a real mess on your hands, or in your bathroom or yard. As the homeowner, you are responsible for maintaining your private sanitary sewer system, which is the part that is between your home and the public system. Having to dig up your yard to take care of a blockage is another great way to ruin a good day, not to mention the effect such a project would have on your checkbook.

So, before you flush that disposable diaper, or run that grease down your drain, think – do I really want to spend hundreds of dollars to remove these items as blockages from my sanitary sewer system?

As appears in the *Ada Herald* on August 4, 2011