

When in doubt, throw it out!

Approximately 76 percent of Sarasota County Public Utilities customers are connected to the public sewer system.

Each home's sewage flows through an individual line that connects to a larger sewage disposal line under the street. It is the homeowners' responsibility to keep their individual sewer lines clear.

Many consumer products – even small items or those labeled “disposable” or “flushable”— can wreak havoc on both home plumbing systems and public sewer systems. Most of these products do not break down (as toilet paper does when flushed) and can block the sewer line. Flushing these products may also result in expensive repairs to your plumbing lines or even the public sewer system.

These products also do not travel readily through the sewer pump stations that move sewage to treatment plants. Even if the products do arrive at the treatment plant, they must be filtered out and removed so they do not damage costly equipment.

In short, if it is not toilet paper ... it does not go with the flow and should not be flushed down the drain.


Sarasota County
scgov.net | 941.861.5000

Public Utilities
1001 Sarasota Center Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34240

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What NOT To Flush

***A guide to what should
and should not,
go down the drain.***




Sarasota County

To keep things flowing smoothly, here's a list of things you should **never flush or pour down the drain:**

WHAT	WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH IT
Adhesive bandages	Place in garbage.
Baby/facial wipes	Place in garbage.
Cat litter	Place in garbage.
Cigarette butts	Extinguish thoroughly and place in garbage.
Cloth items	If not soiled, take them to a clothing donation center where they can be used as rags or dispose of them in the garbage.
Cotton swabs/balls	Place in garbage.
Dental floss	Place in garbage.
Diapers	Place in garbage.
Feminine hygiene products	Place in garbage.
Flammable chemicals (residential)	Call 941-861-5000 for disposal locations.
Grease, oil or fat (residential)	Place in sealed container in garbage.
Grease, oil or fat (commercial)	Dispose of through a grease/oil recycling company.
Hypodermic needles/lancets/syringes	For disposal information go to http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm#SARASOTA .
Medications	Deliver to Sarasota Sheriff's Office or police department locations, listed in this brochure.
Moist towelettes	Place in garbage.
Paint or other household chemicals	Take to Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. (Call 941-861-5000 for locations.)
Paper (other than toilet paper)	If soiled, place in garbage. If clean, recycle.
Paper towels	Place in garbage.
Pet waste bags	Place in garbage.
Plastic bags	Recycle at most local grocery stores.
Plastics of any kind	Plastics labeled #1-5 and #7 should be recycled; Styrofoam (#6), dry cleaning bags and plastic film, place in the garbage.
Swiffer-type refills	Place in garbage.

Medications Pollute Our Water

Are you dumping medicines down the drain? Disposing of medications in your sink or toilet do not get rid of them. They contaminate our water.

To safely dispose of expired or unneeded medications for humans and pets you can drop them off at the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and police departments throughout the county.



CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

PRESCRIPTION DISPOSAL LOCATIONS:

- 2071 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota
- 4531 State Road 776, Venice
- 4980 City Hall Blvd., North Port
- 2099 Adams Lane, Sarasota
- 13650 Ridgewood Ave., Venice

For more information, call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000.