



Be kind to your drains

Every drop of water that you wash or flush away in your home travels through wastewater pipes that join the sewers. When there's a blockage and the wastewater cannot travel to the sewers it can come back up the pipes into your home and cause flooding.

What causes blockages?

Blockages occur when items that aren't designed to be flushed go through the drains. The most common causes of blockages are FOG's - fats, oils, greases and wet wipes. When you pour FOG's down the drain they cool down and solidify. Over time FOG's can build up leading to fatbergs, which block the sewers and cause severe damage. Our sewers are designed for human waste and wastewater only.

How to spot a blockage

- Is the sink or bath taking longer than usual to empty?
- Is there a bad smell coming from your drains?
- Are you having difficulty flushing your toilet?



How you can prevent blockages in your home

Most blockages are preventable and following these simple tips can help to keep your pipework clear.

In the kitchen

- ✓ Don't wash FOG's – fats oils and greases down the drain, pour them into a disposable container and bin them.
- ✓ Try alternatives to traditional cooking oil, such as a cooking spray.
- ✓ Before washing your pots and pans wipe them with kitchen roll to remove excess fat or grease.
- ✓ Scrape left-over food into a compost heap or bin.
- ✓ Invest in a sink strainer to catch any left-over food debris.

In the bathroom

- ✓ Only flush the 3 P's – pee, poo and paper.
- ✓ Put wet wipes in the bin, they may be marketed as biodegradable, but they are not designed to go down the toilet and can take months to disintegrate.
- ✓ Put sanitary products in the bin.

Blockages if not properly dealt with can cause flooding. It's important to remember that blockages in your pipework are your responsibility.



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