

Toilets are not Trash Cans

Think before you Flush

There are two types of sewer systems in the City of Pembroke: sanitary (water from sinks, showers and toilets) and stormwater systems (water from precipitation). The water from the sanitary sewer system gets treated at the Pollution Control Centre. However, the water from the stormwater system goes untreated and enters our local water courses.

It is extremely important that everyday items such as hygiene products, wipes and waste do not get flushed or poured down either system.

The City of Pembroke's sanitary sewer system is not designed to dispose of anything beyond human waste, toilet paper and wastewater.

Flushing any other materials down the drains can result in:

- Damage or blockages to your home plumbing, which could lead to basement flooding
- Damage to the City's sewer pipes located under the streets, which could lead to basement flooding
- Increased operation and maintenance costs for the City of Pembroke to clean and repair the City's sewer pipes
- Decreased life of equipment at Pollution Control Centre and increased maintenance & repairs
- Harm to the environment

To help keep the entire sewage system working well, please do not flush or put the following products down the drain:



- hygiene products
- cleaning rags – are far too thick to be flushed
- wipes/baby wipes – even those that say “flushable” can cause a problem – they don't breakdown like toilet paper so they cause a lot of blockages
- cotton swabs
- dental floss – if it is flushed down the toilet it can wrap itself around pumps, pump shafts, bearings causing damage and equipment failure
- facial tissue
- paper towels
- fats, oils, grease
- pharmaceuticals – return unused or outdated medications to Pharmacy
- household hazardous waste – such as paints, pesticides and many cleaning products