

Be good to the sewer system, and it will be good to you.

Every day, the Vallecitos Water District takes millions of gallons of water into its sewer system. But for us, what goes in the sewer system isn't as important as what won't come out.

It's easy to assume that foreign objects, such as tree roots, are the culprit for most sewer overflows. However, some would be surprised to learn of the havoc caused by regular, everyday household objects that accumulate over time to create massive blockages that can lead to expensive spills and harm to the environment.

For example, it is common knowledge that grease is bad for your arteries. The same can be said for the sewer system. When poured down the drain, leftover household cooking grease swells into a ball that blocks sewer pipes – an occurrence responsible for many of the sewer spills in our region.

The easiest way to protect your home and the environment is a simple change in habit. Instead of pouring grease down the drain, throw it in the garbage.

For disposal ease, Vallecitos, for a limited time, is giving away free Fat Trapper grease collection bins, specifically designed to store cooking grease until it is time to throw it away. The airtight unit contains foil-lined bags to contain your cooking grease. Once full, simply throw the bag away.

Also, although dental floss may lead to a healthy gum line, it does not lead to a healthy sewer pipe. After being flushed down the toilet, similar to grease, it meets up with other foreign objects to create a massive ball that serves as a blockage that can eventually lead to an overflow.

Even if it does manage to get through the sewer, floss doesn't grind up at treatment facilities, which can lead to equipment failure and, ultimately, more sewer overflows. Alleviate the possibility of this happening by disposing of floss in the trash.

Similar to the problems caused by dental floss, disposable diapers, feminine sanitary products, cotton balls, cigarette butts, rags, Q-tips, and baby wipes can also clog pipes and sewer systems. Even if labeled "flushable," it's still best to place these items in the trash.

By everybody doing his or her part, these enemies to the sewer system can be kept at bay to minimize the potential for environmental problems, traffic-tie-ups due to crews needing to repair sewer lines, or even flooded homes and businesses.



Interested customers can obtain a FREE Fat Trapper grease collection bin by contacting Vallecitos' Conservation Department at (760) 744-0460. (Note: Limited supplies available.)

For more sewer care advice, including requesting a free Fat Trapper for your residence, please contact Vallecitos' Conservation Department at (760) 744-0460.



**Dental floss....
Great for your teeth,
not so great for the sewer lines.**