

→ THE EARL OF ATHLONE SAYS ←

"Be careful about what you flush down your drains. The wrong liquid or solid waste can cause a lot of problems such as clogged pipes, odor or even sewer back-up."

Prevent clogged drains by keeping these items out of your drains and toilet:

1. Food waste
2. Fats, grease and oils (vegetable oil, cooking oil)
3. Lard, butter, salad dressing, marinade for meats

Put your drain on a fat-free diet:

1. Wipe cooking equipment with paper towel before washing
2. Scrape dishes before washing to remove oily food debris
3. Pour leftover cooking oils into a container

How to dispose fats, oils and grease:

The best way to dispose of oils and grease is to pour the liquid in a container, such as an empty milk carton. Place it into a compost bin once the container is cooled and the contents are solidified.

There are many other items that should not be flushed down drains and toilets including dental floss, cigarette butts, paper towels, personal wipes and household cleaners like disinfectants.

Prevention: Regular drain maintenance will go a long way in preventing blocked drains. Drains accumulate debris, like food particles, soap and chemical residue on the pipe lining.

Once a Week:

- Fill up the sink all the way to the top, then remove the stopper. This will perform a simple flush of the drain line with the sheer weight and volume of the water mass.

Once a Month:

- Pour vinegar to the fixture traps and let it sit overnight. This will help loosen build up inside pipes. Also, add baking soda or borax to tackle odor.

Once every Three Months:

- Check sink and tub stoppers and remove any buildup of organic material

Clogs cannot be avoided indefinitely but the frequency can be reduced with these preventative measures. If your drain clogs and there is no sewer back-up present, try a plunger first – minor drain clogs can often be cleared simply with a plunger. Pouring baking soda and vinegar down the drain, or a chemical drain cleaner also does the trick in some cases. If the main line is clogged, it's time to ask the management company to set up a service call with one of The Athlone's approved plumbing companies.

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