

# CITY OF ORMOND BEACH SEWER FACTS



## How to Dispose of Unwanted Medications

Expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications from households should never be disposed of by flushing them down the toilet or a drain. Although this method of disposal prevents accidental ingestion, it can cause contamination to Florida's aquatic environment because wastewater treatment systems are not designed to remove many of these medications.

### Seven Steps to Safety

Please use these practical guidelines when disposing of prescription and over-the-counter medicines:

#### For Pills and Liquids:

1. Keep the medicines in the original container. This will help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
2. Mark out your name and prescription number for safety.
3. For pills: add some water or soda to start dissolving them  
For liquids: add something inedible like cat litter, dirt or cayenne pepper.
4. Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape.
5. Place the bottle(s) inside an opaque (non see-through) container like a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle.
6. Tape that container closed.
7. Hide the container in the trash. Do not put in the recycle bin.



## Don't Flush That Leftover Medicine



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## DISPOSABLE DOES NOT MEAN "FLUSHABLE"

The following listed products are not suitable for disposal in plumbing or sewer systems.

### DO NOT FLUSH:

- Baby wipes
- Disposable mopping pads
- Disposable toilet cleaning pads
- Disposable surface cleaners
- Wipes
- Dental floss or stringy products
- Protective undergarments
- Prophylactics
- Feminine hygiene products
- Plastics
- Cloth and non-woven products

Products listed do not dissolve in water and cause clogging of plumbing and sewer piping and pumping systems.

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## FATS, OIL, AND GREASE (FOG) SHOULD NOT BE DISPOSED OF DOWN THE DRAIN!!

Fats, oil, and grease are major contributors to plumbing and sewer system backups. These backups may cause sewage overflows into our homes, streets and storm drains affecting water quality in nearby lakes, rivers and ponds. Sewer backups are costly and affect water and sewer utility rates.



### FOG FACTS

**Fact:** Even though soap breaks up grease, soaps lose their effectiveness quickly by dilution, allowing grease to solidify on downstream piping, fittings (bends) and pumping equipment.

**Fact:** Running hot water does NOT help grease flow through plumbing and sewer system piping because the water eventually cools and grease becomes solid again.

**Fact:** All cooking oils adhere to plumbing and the sewer pipes. To avoid plumbing problems, do not pour cooking oils down the drain.

### SUGGESTED FOG DISPOSAL METHOD

1. PLACE IN JAR OR CAN
2. ALLOW TIME TO COOL
3. COVER WITH LID
4. DISCARD IN TRASH



- For large amounts of liquid oils and grease: After cooling, pour into old containers such as plastic milk containers, water bottles, or glass jars. Reuse or discard with trash.
- Scrape fats, greases and leftover food from plates and cooking utensils into the trash prior to washing.