

Sewer vs. Storm Drains

The Sewer System is designed to collect and convey wastewater and is not meant or designed to remove storm water runoff or groundwater which may find it's way into yards or basements. Manholes marked with "Sewer" on the lid are for wastewater, while grates are associated with storm water collection.



Sewer Manhole



Storm Drain Grate



**Town of Chatham
Department of Public Works
Sewer Division**

**221 Crowell Road
Chatham, MA 02633**

**Phone: 508-945-5150
Fax: 508-945-5152**

**Emergency After-Hours
508-945-5150**

***Town of Chatham
Water Pollution
Control Facility
Information***

**A Guide of DO's and
DONT's that will help
promote a long life for
both your personal, as well
as the public, wastewater
collection system.**

Be Sewer Savvy

INSIDE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

What **NOT** to flush

- ◇ Foreign Objects or Debris
- ◇ Diapers and Baby Wipes
- ◇ Sanitary Napkins
- ◇ All Grease & Oils
- ◇ Food
- ◇ Coffee Grounds and Tea
- ◇ Flammable Substances
- ◇ Pool or Spa Products
- ◇ Kitty Litter
- ◇ Cigarettes
- ◇ Toxic Chemicals
- ◇ Bath and Body Oils
- ◇ Large Amounts of Hair
- ◇ Paints
- ◇ Personal Care Products
- ◇ Pharmaceuticals

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

DON'T:

- ◇ Dig without knowing the location of your sewer system or other utilities. Notify Dig-Safe prior to any digging on your property.

IMPORTANT FACT:

Just because a product's packaging states that it is "flushable" it is NOT. These along with baby wipes, sanitary napkins and other non biodegradable household items, over time, turn into a grayish pulp that can wrap around a pump and /or cause a blockage in the sewer pipes. This provides for the potential of sewer backups and/or sewer overflows.

SEWER PUMP STATIONS

- ◇ All of the Town's Pump Stations are equipped with "Red Flashing Lights". If the lights are on this could indicate a problem with the pump system.
- ◇ This condition should be reported ASAP to expedite response and to prevent backups and/or overflows.

PLEASE CALL 508-945-5150

STOP THE **FOG**

DON'T:

- ◇ Pour fats, oil, and grease down sinks or toilets

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) blocking sewer pipes is a serious maintenance problem for both the Town sewer system as well as your own plumbing and sewer pipes. When hot grease is disposed of in your sink it quickly solidifies which in turn creates a potential blockage in your waste pipe. This could potentially jeopardize public and environmental health.

In addition, high levels of FOG may inhibit the proper functioning of Low pressure sewer systems, pump stations and the wastewater treatment facility.