

Town of Van Buren
Wastewater Department
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This letter is for all Van Buren residents that are connected to the towns' sewer system. The purpose of this letter is intended to educate you, the homeowner, anyone living in your home, and guest, as to what **should not** be flushed down the toilets and poured down the drains. We have recently been experiencing an alarming number of clogged sewer lines and clogged sewer pumps at our pump stations and treatment plant due to foreign material being flushed down the toilets or poured down drains. The sewer lines and sewer pump stations are designed to handle water, human waste, and tissue paper only.

Examples of what **should not** be flushed down toilets or poured down drains are as follows:

- Baby wipes, toilet wipes, towelettes, disinfecting wipes, or cloth wipes of any kind (even if the container indicates that they are “flushable”)
- Paper (other than toilet paper/tissue)
- Medications (prescription or over-the-counter)
- Condoms, feminine hygiene products of any kind including applicators
- Beauty products, cotton balls, bandages, Q-tips, dental floss
- Plastics and sharps of any kind
- Cigarette butts
- Grease of any kind – especially cooking grease
- Garden supplies (such as pesticides and fertilizers)
- Paint, varnish, paint remover
- Motor oil, anti-freeze, gasoline, or any other explosive material

All of the above items mentioned should be thrown out with the trash or disposed of properly.

Remember, only water, human waste and tissue paper should be flushed down toilets. Clogged sewer lines and pumps lead to sewer backups into homes, which are expensive to clean and repair. This cost is borne by you, the sewer rate payer.

Please share this information with all members of your household. If you have any questions about this letter please feel free to contact the Van Buren Sewer Department.

Ricky Sirois
Chief Operator