TIPS TO AVOID COMMON PROBLEMS

Prevent potentially costly blockages or sewage overflows in your home by keeping it free of waste that should ideally be placed in the bin.

**Never flush these items down your toilet sink or drain:**
- Wet wipes (even if they say they are ‘flushable’)
- Cotton buds
- Sanitary items or condoms
- Baby wipes or make-up wipes
- Nappies & incontinence pads
- Medications or chemicals
- Fats and oils

**Put a bin in your bathroom.**

**SEWER BLOCKAGES**

- If you have a sewer blockage in your home, contact your local plumber.
- If you see a damaged manhole, cracked pipe or sewer blockage outside the home please contact Council.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- The only things that go into the toilet are the three Ps: Poo, Pee and Paper (toilet paper).
- Wet wipes, cotton buds, chux, baby wipes, nappies, sanitary items and condoms are to be wrapped and disposed of in the RED bin.
- Do not pour fats and oils down the sink! These solidify in your pipes causing expensive blockages. Pour cooking waste into a container or wipe with a paper towel, wrap in newspaper and place in the GREEN bin.
- Paint, pesticides and household chemicals do not go down the drain! These can be disposed of free of charge at a Council waste transfer station.
- Use a sink strainer and empty into your compost or GREEN bin.
- Use detergent that has the NP (No Phosphorus) on the label. Phosphorus can contribute to outbreaks of algae (including blue-green algae) in our waterways.
- Think before you plant – tree roots can grow and damage sewer pipes.
- Illegal connections – check your roof water downpipes and stormwater connections are not connected to your wastewater system.
- Reduce the risk of a wastewater surcharge backing up inside a building, ensure your overflow relief gully grate is loose-fitting and not blocked or covered and that no rainwater run-off can enter.
- Protect the manhole – maintain access of at least 1000mm around the concrete manhole.

For more information visit pmhc.nsw.gov.au/sewer or call (02) 6581 8111 or email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

For emergency (out of hours) call (02) 6581 8125

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DID YOU KNOW?

The wastewater system is not designed to carry runoff from rainfall. Discharge of stormwater into the wastewater network can reduce the efficiency of the system. This can create an overflow, causing environmental harm and creating risks to human health. Stormwater inflow and infiltration can cause major wastewater overflows into residential households, businesses, or the environment, as well as overloading pump stations and treatment plants.

Stormwater inflow can occur through:
> Landscaping that diverts stormwater into manholes, overflow relief gullies or VIS shafts.

This is illegal and can result in a Council fine.

Stormwater infiltration can occur through:
> Cracked or broken pipes,
> Faulty connections or damaged manholes, and
> Trees planted too close to wastewater pipes causing damage or blockages to internal and external pipes due to roots infiltrating the wastewater system.

While Council is responsible for managing and maintaining the overall wastewater scheme, property owners are responsible for:

> Maintenance of drainage pipes on their property.
> Ensuring the manhole is accessible with at least 1000mm clearance for access and maintenance. The manhole shaft has a circular concrete cover, approx. 1200mm in diameter, at ground level. It is illegal to build over manholes or cover them with soil or grass.
> Keeping the surcharge/overflow relief gully grate loose, clear and not covered by pot plants or other materials.