

Coffee Grounds

It's just another Saturday at the Johnson household. Mrs. Johnson started the day out making coffee for her and Mr. Johnson. She always put the coffee grounds down the garbage disposal because she heard it would keep the disposal fresh smelling.

Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of coffee to the wastewater pipes

Vegetable Oil

The Johnson's only child, Bobby Johnson, usually made breakfast for the three of them. Today, he was in the mood for waffles. He made a large batch of perfectly cooked waffles for the family with a side of breakfast sausage. After everyone ate, he cleared the dishes and placed the bowl of leftover waffle batter and the greasy sausage pan into the sink to soak.

Add 20 ml of vegetable oil to the wastewater pipes

Laundry detergent

Later that morning, Mr. Johnson noticed the laundry baskets were overflowing. It was time to do laundry. Even though laundry was Bobby's responsibility, Mr. Johnson decided to place a load in the washer. He used twice the amount of detergent than the box recommends for one wash load because he wanted his clothes to be very clean.

Add $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of detergent to the wastewater pipes

Dirt

Mrs. Johnson was a gardener. She loved having her own garden outside and having household plants inside. After spending hours in the garden, she came inside to replant one of her favorite household cactuses into a larger pot. This was a messy job so she did it in the kitchen sink. As the dirt fell out of the pot, it conveniently landed in the sink. When she was done, she turned on the faucet so the rest of the dirt could go down the drain.

Add $1\frac{2}{3}$ cup of soil to the wastewater pipes

Food Scraps

After the dishes had soaked for a few hours, Bobby came back to the kitchen to wash them. The family didn't have a dishwasher so he scraped the leftovers from the plates into the sink. He turned on the garbage disposal to make sure the food was gone.

Add 1 cup of food scraps to the wastewater pipes

Toilet Paper

Every household uses toilet paper! On average, Americans use 20,000 sheets of toilet tissue annually.

Add 20 squares of toilet tissue to the waste water pipes

Yeast

Deep underground the wastewater pipes from the Johnsons house (along with all the hundreds of pipes in the neighborhood) moved the wastewater away from the house and toward the treatment plant. The water that had come into the house clear and clean was now filled with many different substances. Now the water was full of billions of living organisms. The bacteria, viruses, and other microscopic organisms love their new home.

Add 2 teaspoons (tsp.) of yeast to the wastewater pipes

Shower Gel

James Miller believed there was no better way to start his morning than with a shower. He washed his hair, brushed his teeth, and let the shower wake him up for the day.

Add 10ml of shower gel to the wastewater pipes

Food Scraps

In the kitchen, it was time for breakfast: 2 boiled eggs, toast, and a large bowl of Lucky Charms. He peeled his boiled eggs over the sink so he could rinse the egg shells down the disposal. He read somewhere putting egg shells down the disposal helps to sharpen the blades.

Add ¼ cup of food scraps to the wastewater pipes

Paint

Today, James was painting his living room. He had picked out an entire new living room set from Ikea and he had to make sure the room was painted before his new furniture was delivered. James taped off the edges of the room, laid out all his supplies and got to work. After a few hours, the project was complete and the room was ready for new furniture. There was only a little paint left in the can so James took the can out to the sink in his garage and poured the remaining bit of paint down the drain. He used the spray nozzle immediately after to make sure the paint went down the drain and didn't stick to the sink.

Add 20 ml of chemicals to the wastewater pipes

Oil

The day was coming to an end and James was preparing to make dinner. Chicken, mashed potatoes and a side salad were on the menu for tonight! James went into the refrigerator to grab the salad dressing and realized it was expired. He dumped the rest of the salad dressing into the sink, rinsed out the bottle it came in, and placed it the recycling bin. He knew you weren't supposed to place dirty recyclables in the bin.

Add 10 ml of oil to the wastewater pipes

Flushable Wipes

Before long, it was time to get ready for bed. James was particular about his nighttime skin routine. When he was done he flushed his cotton swabs, cotton balls, and face wipes down the toilet before heading off to bed.

Add 5 flushable wipes to the wastewater pipes

Toilet Paper

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Add 20 squares of toilet tissue to the waste water pipes

Yeast

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Add 2 teaspoons (tsp.) of yeast to the wastewater pipes

Food scraps and dish detergent

For the Smith family, Saturday morning was chaos! Every Saturday Mom, Dad, Carter, and Mia had to wake up early for Carter's baseball game. The family quickly ate their breakfast, rushing upstairs to get dressed for the day. No time to scrape plates in the trash, mom stuffed all the leftover breakfast into the garbage disposal and loaded the dishwasher with the dirty plates.

Add 2 cups of food scraps and 30 ml of dish detergent to the wastewater pipes

Dirt

After the game, Carter had dirt all over his baseball cleats. To clean them off, Carter held his shoes over the sink and scraped off the dried mud that had caked all over them. Once he removed all the mud, he cleaned the sink by turning on the faucet.

Add 2 1/3 of soil to the wastewater pipes

Flushable wipes

Mia, the youngest child, no longer needed to wear diapers. She could use the bathroom all by herself. She didn't like using toilet paper though, she loved using wipes. After she was done using the bathroom she flushed her wipes down the toilet. Her mom said she bought the flushable kind just for her.

Add 5 flushable wipes to the wastewater pipes

Vinegar

There's nothing better than a clean house! Every Saturday afternoon, Mom cleaned the house top to bottom. She often had to wear a facemask because the chemicals she used to clean the house sometimes gave her a headache.

Add 50 ml of "chemicals" to the wastewater pipes

Plastic Straws

Dad knew that he shouldn't flick his cigarette butts on the street because it was litter. Instead, he would bring them inside and flush them down the toilet.

Add ten 1-cm pieces of drinking straws to the wastewater pipes

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Add 20 squares of toilet tissue to the waste water pipes

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Add 2 teaspoons (tsp.) of yeast to the wastewater pipes

Coffee Grounds

The day began at the Wilkins house as it did every day. Mom was up early getting the coffee started. Oops! Mom accidentally dropped the coffee grounds on the kitchen counter. No problem – she just wiped them off the counter into the sink. Once the faucet was turned on and Mom ran the garbage disposal, they were gone.

Pour 3 tablespoons (tbs.) of coffee grounds into the bucket

Vegetable Oil

Dad came into the kitchen ready to cook breakfast. Before long the whole house was filled with the smell of frying bacon and Dad’s famous pancakes. These pancakes were the standard breakfast every Saturday morning at the Wilkins’ house. Dad, Mom, and the three children ate, talked and laughed as they ate. Time to clean up the mess! Dad plunged the pancake pan into the hot water in the sink.

Pour 30 ml of vegetable oil into the bucket

Dish Soap

The breakfast dishes were set on the counter ready to be washed. It was Janna’s turn to wash the dishes that Saturday. Her two younger brothers ran upstairs to brush their teeth and get dressed. Janna put a generous squirt of dishwashing detergent into the full sink of dishes. She sure wished that the family would get a dishwasher soon.

Pour 10 ml of dish soap into the bucket

Food Scraps

After Janna finished the dishes and wiped off the table, she scraped the leftover food into the sink and turned on the garbage disposal. The food was ground into tiny pieces and away it went.

Add ¼ cup of chopped food

Vinegar

While the dishes were being washed in the kitchen, the youngest Wilkins son, Charlie, was proudly showing his mom how he could now use the potty like a big kid. He was a proud 3 years old.

Pour 30 ml cup of vinegar into the bucket

Toilet Paper

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