

# Are You Wastewater-Wise?

## Tips to Help You and the Environment

*In nature, everything is connected to everything else. What we drain or flush in our homes or businesses could harm the quality of the waterways we use for recreation, fishing, and other activities. Before you dispose of something, think about where it will eventually go and the potential effects to the environment, as well as to your home or business.*



**BE ENVIRO-SMART FROM THE START.** Buy environmentally friendly products, rather than household hazardous products, when possible. "Green" products have minimal impact on the environment. The product label is your best source of information. Look for the signal words *Caution*, *Warning*, or *Danger/Poison*, which could indicate a toxic product (harmful upon contact, ingestion, or inhalation):

- *Caution* indicates the product is relatively nontoxic or slightly toxic.
- *Warning* means it is moderately toxic.
- *Danger/Poison* indicates it is highly toxic.

**IF YOU MUST BUY A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCT, CHOOSE THE LEAST TOXIC ONE AND USE IT PROPERLY.** Many household cleaning, household maintenance, automotive, and lawn and garden products require special use and disposal. Some examples are pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil, antifreeze, and paint thinners and solvents. Here are some tips if you must use a household hazardous product:

- When buying hazardous products, select the least toxic one (*Caution* on the label indicates a less toxic product than *Warning*).
- Always follow label directions, using the least amount needed.
- Don't pour hazardous products into sinks or toilets or throw them into the trash.

### **PROPERLY DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE.**

Take unused products to a collection facility.

**SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS:** Residents can take household hazardous waste to collection facilities throughout the region. Please call the Southeastern Public Service Authority's Information Line (424-4297) or visit their Web site ([www.spsa.com](http://www.spsa.com)) for information about their collection facilities and proper disposal of hazardous products.

**PENINSULA:** Residents of participating communities (except Newport News) can take household hazardous waste to area collection sites. Please call the Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority (259-9850) for information about their collection sites and proper disposal of hazardous products.

**NEWPORT NEWS:** Residents can take household hazardous waste to area collection sites. Please call the City of Newport News (269-2850 or 269-2873) or visit their Web site ([www.nngov.com/pwdept/sw](http://www.nngov.com/pwdept/sw)) for information about their collection sites and proper disposal of hazardous products.

**CEASE THE GREASE.** Everyday waste can cause damage, too. Fats, oils, and grease not only clog your arteries – they also clog your sanitary sewer pipes. Grease sticks to the inside of sewer pipes, both on your property and in the street. Over time, grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Blocked sewer pipes can cause backups and overflows, which could damage your home or business and the sewer system and harm the environment. Here are some tips to help prevent these problems and potentially costly repairs and maintenance for you:

- Don't pour grease into sinks or toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from plates, grills, and pots and pans and put them in the trash.
- Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch remaining food scraps.

