

## TREATMENT IS **NOT ENOUGH** ■■■

Wastewater treatment plants emerged in the 1970s as a result of the Clean Water Act. And these plants have been instrumental in cleaning up our polluted waterways. Over the last few decades, treatment technology and processes have significantly improved. But it is still not enough. Everyone needs to play a role in the pollution solution.



## THREE THINGS THAT **DON'T GO DOWN THE DRAIN** ■■■

### GREASE, OIL, AND FATS



Scrape fats, oils, and grease into the garbage.

### FIBROUS MATERIAL



Recycle and reuse as much as possible. Toss fibrous material, like cloth, rags, and wipes, in the trash.

### TOXIC CHEMICALS



Use natural cleaners like vinegar and borax. If you use toxic chemicals, use them up or dispose of them properly.



You may be surprised to learn that what you flush down the toilet or wash down the drain can end up in our rivers and bays – even if you have a private septic tank.



# POLLUTION SOLUTION...

There are many ways individual homeowners and businesses can help protect our waterways. It starts with understanding whatever goes down the drain ends up in the wastewater system. While wastewater plants are extremely effective at removing organic materials, they do not remove everything.



## 1 GREASE CONGEALS AND CAN CLOG KITCHEN AND WASTEWATER PIPES.

Over time, grease, oil, and fat build up. With nowhere to go, **WASTEWATER BACKS UP** into homes and businesses and causes **COSTLY AND MESSY HEADACHES**. Cleaning grease from wastewater pumps and treatment facilities is also necessary. In fact, the Portland Water District expects to **REMOVE MORE THAN 200 TONS OF GREASE** from its systems this year - costing ratepayers about \$40,000.

**INSTEAD: SCRAPE FATS, OILS, AND GREASE INTO THE GARBAGE.**

## 2 CLOTH MATERIAL JAMS EQUIPMENT, BRINGING PUMPING STATIONS TO A GRINDING HALT.

Anything fibrous, like rags or disposable wipes, should not go down the drain. They often don't make it to the plant and clog pumping stations. Malfunctioning wastewater equipment has the potential to cause **SERIOUS SEWER OVERFLOWS**. Tangled material also needs to be **REGULARLY REMOVED** which costs ratepayers about \$20,000 a year.

**INSTEAD: RECYCLE AND REUSE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. TOSS FIBROUS MATERIAL, LIKE CLOTH, RAGS, AND WIPES, IN THE TRASH.**

## 3 TOXIC CHEMICALS PASS THROUGH THE SYSTEM AND END UP IN OUR RIVERS AND BAYS.

Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove many commonly used chemicals. Household cleaners, solvents, paints, etc., **SHOULD NEVER BE FLUSHED** down the toilet.

**INSTEAD: USE NATURAL CLEANERS LIKE VINEGAR AND BORAX. IF YOU USE TOXIC CHEMICALS, USE THEM UP OR DISPOSE OF THEM PROPERLY.**

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