

MEDIA RELEASE

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Stop it, don't block it!

East Gippsland Water is reminding customers that disposing of inappropriate items down the toilet, sink or drain can lead to blockages, overflows and damage to the sewer system.

Flushing the wrong items down the toilet, and washing inappropriate products down the sink, can result in costly repairs. In fact, East Gippsland Water spends about \$190,000 each year to fix blocked pipes and sewer pumps around the region.

The problem has been driven home recently with one of our sewer pump stations in Johnsonville, where there have been blockages causing costly damage to pump equipment.

All customers across East Gippsland can do their bit to help prevent blockages by ensuring that they:

- do not flush sanitary pads, tampons, incontinence pads, nappies, baby wipes or makeup wipes down the toilet
- do not pour oil, grease or fat down the sink
- use biodegradable dishwashing detergent and products
- do not wash food scraps down the sink; consider composting these for the garden
- do not dispose of salt, paint products, garden chemicals, fertilisers and herbicides down the drain, because these products damage household drains and have the potential to injure our maintenance workers.



A blocked sewer pump

Said East Gippsland Water's Managing Director, Bruce Hammond: "Minimising sewer blockages helps to maintain the high level of our services and also avoids sewage overflows and odours from the sewerage system. Cooperation with tackling this particular issue also reduces maintenance costs, which is a win-win for everyone involved."

If you encounter a sewer problem please call our 24 hour emergency and faults service on 1300 134 202.

Ends