

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW?

When the wastewater flushed from your toilet or drained from your household sinks, washing machine, or dishwasher leaves your home, it flows through your community's sanitary sewer system to a wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater is treated by the wastewater treatment facility to reduce or remove pollutants.



City of Muscatine WPCP

1202 Musser Street
Muscatine, IA 52761
Phone (563) 263-2752
Fax (563) 263-3720

Information provided by:

U. S Environmental Protection Agency,
WWW.EPA.gov/owm

Purdue University,
<http://www.purdue.edu/dp/envirosoft/housewaste/house/prodmenu.htm>

Water Environment Federation –
WWW.WEF.org

***If you're on a
sanitary sewer
system...***

**Flush
Responsibly!**



What you flush from
your home affects the
streams, lakes, and
rivers in our
community.

WHAT NOT TO PUT DOWN THE DRAIN

*Don't pour used motor oil
down the drain!!*

MOTOR OIL

Motor Oil can reduce the effectiveness of the treatment process and may allow contaminants to be discharged into local waterways.

One gallon of used motor oil can pollute up to 8 acres of water, by forming an oil slick on the water's surface. Used motor oil should be recycled contact the City of Muscatine Transfer Station.

*Don't pour household products
such as cleansers, beauty
products, medicine, auto fluids,
paint, and lawn care products
down the drain.*

*The wastewater treatment facility is
designed to treat organic material,
NOT hazardous chemicals.*

FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES

It is best to use fertilizers and pesticides up. Even bug spray is considered a pesticide. These items should not be dumped out. If they cannot be used, pass them on to a friend or neighbor who can.

These items include - fungicides, mothballs, bug spray, insecticide, herbicides, weed killers and rat poison.

PAINT

It is best to use up the paint. Paint can be used as an undercoat to another project.

Latex -Latex paints are water based paints. These paints are not considered hazardous. The paint can should be dried out or have an absorbent added to it, such as kitty litter, and thrown into the trashcan.

Oil Based -Oil or solvent-based paints can contain mineral spirits, toluene, xylene, and other petroleum based solvents. These contain larger volumes of solvent, and should be used in a well-ventilated area. Oil based paints should not be poured down the drain. Paint items include – varnish, turpentine, paint thinner, primers, auto and model paint.

ANTI-FREEZE

Although antifreeze is biodegradable, it is also toxic. Antifreeze should be saved, and recycled. Contact the Transfer Station for more information on collection and recycling of antifreeze.

MEDICINE

Prescription medicine should not be flushed down the drain, because treatment plants are not designed to treat chemicals. Mix prescription medicine with kitty litter, and the medicine out in the trash. This includes cough syrup, antibiotics, and painkillers. To protect your medical information, remove labels from the prescription bottles and shred them.

*Don't put excess household grease
(meat fats, cooking oil, butter and
margarine, etc.) diapers, condoms,
and personal hygiene products down a
drain or flush them.*

PERSONAL PRODUCTS AND MEAT FATS

These materials can clog pipes, and cause raw sewage to overflow in your home or yard, or in public areas.

Sewage overflows are messy and an environmental hazard. Raw sewage contains microorganisms that can cause diseases like hepatitis and gastroenteritis.