

## **IMPORTANT FLOWS NOTICE** **(FOUNTAIN LAKES OWNERS WATER & SEWER)**

As many residents of Fountain Lakes already know, we process our own sewer effluents. If not, this is how it works:

Everything put down your drain eventually leads to a small 1,000 gallon central tank buried in the ground in the lower part of the subdivision. From there, two grinder pumps the effluent to a much larger tank at our main aerobic sanitation plant located along the most northern portion of the lower road. The ground up effluent is then regurgitated using blower motors, enzymes (bugs), and through a series of gradually smaller tanks, the heavy materials settle and the eventual remaining effluent is relatively clean water. We then chlorinate at the last stage and release the final product back into Lake Livingston. Please understand that this is an overly simplified description. This process is monitored daily by the TRA (Trinity River Authority)

Our problems arise when attempting to deal with certain materials flushed or drained into the system. These items not only may clog your own drain, but also clog the pipes leading to the sewer plant, as well as cause "all-too-often" pump clogs at the lift station. Clearing these clogs involves "MAN Hours pulling the and manually cleaning the same",...often at 2 or 3 AM! . In addition, certain materials, even if they pass the grinders, are not readily "aerobically" digestible at the main plant and then "screw up" our release effluent chemistry. Needless to say, this all adds to the costs of maintaining our FLOWS system.

Anyway, here is a list of the "**BAD THINGS THAT SHOULD NOT** be put down the drain at any time::

### **Rags of ANY kind.**

Cloths tend to twist and can stop a grinder.

### **Tampons, sanitary napkins, and the plastic containers they come in.**

These are "tough" materials, become intertwined and also can stop a pump. Plastics, of any kind, are simply not biodegradable and should never be flushed in system like ours.. This includes the cylinders tampons come in as well as items such as "Bounty" paper towels that have reinforced nylon meshes.

**Cigarette butts** (see above)

### **Grease**

This is something many folks don't think about. Grease coagulates as it cools. It eventually becomes a big solid glob of Goo. Keep a coffee tin by your stove and put the same into it and out with your normal garbage rather than down the drain.

### **Garbage Disposal Stuff.**

Most systems like ours frown upon garbage disposals at all. We understand that most have the same and have been using them. Grinding of "fibrous materials such as potato skins, celery" and the like materials cause problems, too, They just don't biodegrade easily.

### **FLOWS greatly appreciates your cooperation.**

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### **FOOTNOTE AND PS:**

Please remember that we are now entering hurricane season. If or when we lose electrical power, FLOWS loses the ability to handle your sewer. **Flushing or draining ANY water should be severely limited if not completely avoided until power is restored.**



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