

## At the sink

Fats, oils and grease can solidify in pipes, making it difficult for water to flow. Also, small items such as produce stickers, tea leaves and ground coffee can stick to built-up grease or get caught in screens and filters, causing costly blockages.

### Do not wash these items down the sink

- Fats and oils
- Food scraps
- Tea leaves and ground coffee
- Produce stickers
- Unused medications
- Toxic chemicals
- Eggshells

### Handy hints

- Use a sink strainer to prevent any food scraps from washing down the drain.
- Scrape food scraps into your rubbish bin before washing dishes.
- Pour cooking oils and fats into a container, then seal the container and place it in your rubbish bin.
- Use paper towel to soak up any residual cooking oil in pots and pans before washing them.



## Before you flush

Remember that some items can block sewerage pipes—if this happens, you might need to have a plumber unblock the pipes and repair any damage caused.

Always dispose of waste items carefully. This will help you avoid plumbing problems and will also minimise the effects of waste on our water systems and the environment.

### Do not flush these items down the toilet

- Disposable nappies
- Baby wipes
- Cotton buds and balls
- Sanitary napkins and tampons
- Unused medications
- Toxic chemicals
- Cigarette butts
- Condoms
- Plastic bags

### Handy hints

- Always put sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, disposable nappies, baby wipes and similar items in the bin.
- Return unused medications to your local pharmacy for disposal.
- Use biodegradable cleaners if possible, as they are less likely to clog pipes.

## Further information

Contact your local council or water service provider.

© State of Queensland, 2013.



For more information on this licence, visit  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/deed.en>.

# Water's journey to your tap and beyond



# It takes more than a tap to run your water

It takes an extensive network of pipes and advanced treatment methods to deliver clean, safe water supplies. Water is collected and treated, then pumped to storage tanks usually at high points so it can be fed by gravity to your property.

# Your pipes and plumbing

As the property owner, you are responsible for maintaining all the water and wastewater pipes on your property that is, everything on your side of the water meter. This includes the cost of any repairs to, as well as any damage caused by, the pipes on your property.

- Make sure stormwater pipes do not drain rainwater from your roof gutters into the sewerage system.
- Check that stormwater in your yard does not build and flood your overflow relief gully\*.
- Make sure your overflow relief gully sits at least 75 mm above ground level to avoid collecting stormwater during heavy rain.
- Make sure your overflow relief gully sits at least 150 mm below the lowest fixture connected to the drain.

# Beyond the plughole

In most cases, one provider is responsible for supplying water and managing sewage for a property. Sewage management includes collecting, transporting, treating and monitoring waste as well as returning treated effluent to the environment.



\* An overflow relief gully is a water trap installed in a property's sewerage system to prevent sewage overflow. If you have any concerns about the overflow relief gully at your property, contact a licensed plumber.