

it's important to

think at the sink!

Fitzroy River Water maintains the Rockhampton Regional Council's sewerage systems. The sewerage systems are connected to each property to transport sewage and domestic wastewater from each home to the sewage treatment plants via private house drains, sewers and pumping stations.

Putting the wrong items down sinks can leave home owners with an expensive plumbing bill to unblock pipes. It can also lead to sewage overflows and problems in other parts of the sewerage network.

Think at the kitchen sink

Fats, oils and grease can accumulate in pipes. Small items such as fruit stickers, tea leaves and coffee grinds, when multiplied across a neighbourhood can stick to grease build-ups or get caught in screens and filters, causing costly blockages.

While rubbish flushed down drains is captured by sophisticated traps and filters in our sewage treatment plants, blocked pipes can cause sewage overflows and pollute the environment.



Think at the bathroom sink

Even small items such as adhesive bandages, hair, cotton buds and face wipes can block pipes and cause equipment failures by jamming filters and pumping equipment.

You should use only the recommended amount of detergent and cleaners to reduce the likelihood of odour and bacteria growth leading into drain blockages. It is important to also try to limit the disposal of items that do not biodegrade.

Non-biodegradable products have to be separated at the treatment plant by Fitzroy River Water and transported to the landfill. This adds another step to treatment processes which costs time and money.

Do NOT wash these items down the sink

Butter and margarine
Cooking oil
Meat fats
Food scraps
Baking goods
Sauces
Dairy products
Produce stickers



Tea leaves/coffee grinds
Cosmetics
Medicines
Plastics
Tissues
Paper towel
Egg shells
Overload of detergent

What to do if you have a sewer blockage

If you are having trouble draining your sink or are experiencing an overflow, this could be a sign of a blockage.

The first thing you should do if you believe your sewerage pipes may be blocked is to call a licensed plumber.

A plumber will be able to tell you if the blockage is located in the pipes in your property boundary or outside your property boundary. If the blockage is outside your property boundary please report this to Fitzroy River Water on 4932 9000 or 1300 22 55 77.

What should I remember to do at the sink?

- Use a sink strainer
- Scrape before you wash
- Bin it, don't sink it
- Use the recommended amount of biodegradable detergent



Sewer man hole pictured - grease, oil and fats collected from a local business



Grease trap pictured - grease, oil and fats collected from a local business