



# Preventing Sewer Backups

## NEVER FLUSH:

Paper towels  
Napkins  
Facial Tissue  
Cleaning or Baby Wipes  
Towels or Rags  
Diapers  
Cotton Balls or Swabs  
Coffee Grounds or Tea  
Kitty Litter  
Toys  
Rubber Items (gloves, etc.)  
Cigarette Butts  
Food  
Personal Care Products  
Disposable Toilet Brushes  
Paints or Stains  
Any Hazardous Material  
Fats, Oil or Grease

## REPORT A PROBLEM

Call (803) 547-7158

## MORE INFORMATION

Fort Mill Utilities Department  
info on the Town's website  
(Departments/Utilities Department/Water and Sewer Department):  
[fortmillsc.gov](http://fortmillsc.gov)

York County Solid Waste and  
Recycling Centers:  
[yorkcountygov.com/Recycle](http://yorkcountygov.com/Recycle)

## Municipal Sewer System

SERVING RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS IN THE FORT MILL AREA

The Town of Fort Mill provides sanitary sewer service to more than 6000 residential and commercial customers in the Fort Mill area. Our purpose is to provide quality sanitary sewer service to customers by ensuring the integrity and reliability of the collection system and by effectively treating the community's wastewater to produce clean water for discharge into the Catawba River.

As part of our commitment to providing the best possible customer service, we have staff on call 24/7. If you are experiencing a sewer emergency please call (803) 547-7158. After 5:00 PM and on weekends, your call will be taken by an after-hours representative. An operator will contact you and promptly be on site to help in sewer emergencies. It is important that you contact your service provider first before calling a plumber - in most cases we can assist you and save you from a costly service call. We have the knowledge and equipment to provide skilled and prompt service to our customers in their time of need.

The Town of Fort Mill maintains Sewer collection mains only. All lateral sewer service lines and connections are the responsibility of the customer from the building to the main. Operators will provide service at the request of the homeowners to help clear blockages and stop overflows but are not responsible for the maintenance or repair of lateral sewer service lines.

Most clogs, backups, and overflows are preventable and are caused by flushing and dumping inappropriate items into toilets and drains.

- Clogs , backups, and overflows can increase maintenance costs for everyone.
- Water-seeking roots from trees can grow into sewer pipe joints and obstruct flow. The Town has a regular maintenance program to remove roots from main lines, but customers are responsible for keeping their service lines clear. Contact a licensed plumber to assist with clearing blockages between the building plumbing and the sewer main.
- **NEVER** pour fats, oil or grease down the drain—the fats solidify on pipe walls and clump with other materials to create clogs in the pipes. Pour fats, grease, and cooking oil into a jar or other container and dispose of it in the trash once it has cooled. Used motor oil and cooking oil are accepted at the York County Solid Waste and Recycling Centers (see sidebar).
- Even if an item is labeled as “flushable” **DO NOT FLUSH IT DOWN THE TOILET**. “Flushable” wipes, as well as paper towels, napkins, and facial tissues, do not break down the way toilet paper does and can quickly build up in sewer pipes to cause clogs and messy overflows. Dispose of these items in the trash only.
- Foods such as vegetables and vegetable skins contain natural oils, and when ground in a sink's waste disposal unit can contribute to blockages in service and main lines. Compost fruit and vegetable waste or throw it in the trash along with any meat scraps.
- Remember, **only the 3 P's** should be flushed down the toilet: **P**ee, **P**oo, and toilet **P**aper!

For more information about the services provided by Fort Mill Utilities, call (803) 547-7158. We're your hometown utility connection and we're committed to serving our customers.