

Be Careful What You Put Down the Drain!

Islanders are being advised to be careful what they dispose of down their drains, as they could be causing sewer blockages which could have severe consequences.

Guernsey's wastewater function, which now comes under the management of Guernsey Water, is warning islanders that the disposal of fats, greases and oils from cooking, and sanitary items such as baby wipes and cotton buds down the sink or toilet can cause sewers to block and pumps to fail, which could potentially lead to sewage leaks on the public highway, or at worse in people's homes.

Director of water services Andrew Redhead said: "People need to be aware that the public sewer system is only designed to handle water, human waste and toilet roll. Anything else should be put in the bin, even products such as toilet wipes which are labelled as 'flushable'."

Common items that are flushed down the toilet include sanitary towels, baby/make-up wipes, cotton buds, cotton wool and similar products, which should all be disposed of via the bin.

Letters will be sent out to all local restaurants, hotels, cafes and fast-food outlets warning them of the dangers of FOG (fats, oils and greases) getting into the sewerage system. The letters also mention grease traps and invertors, are available for large kitchens to use to capture the fats before they enter the sewers.

Mr Redhead added: "Cooking oils which have been used can now be recycled in Guernsey, so by not disposing of these down the drains you will be helping the sewage system and being environmentally friendly at the same time."

St Peter Port Services are able to take cooking oils for recycling, and can be contacted on 716580. For more information on wastewater, please visit the Guernsey Water website at www.water.gg.

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