

# Keeping the outdoors beautiful starts indoors

We all like a clean home, just as much as we like living in a clean and beautiful coastal city. However some innocent things you might do at home could be blocking your pipes and damaging the local environment.

Whilst your household actions might seem small, you are one of nearly five million people contributing to Sydney's wastewater every day. We're all connected, so what you do can make a big difference.

## What's the problem?

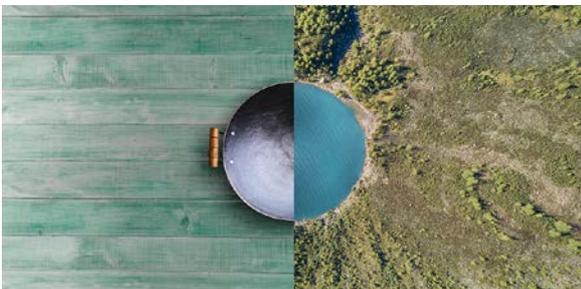
We remove hundreds of tonnes of unwanted bathroom products and kitchen waste from waterways and our wastewater system each year, costing customers and the environment. This is due to the wrong things ending up down household drains and blocking pipes.

### The two main causes of blocked pipes are:

- flushing wet wipes and bathroom products down the toilet



- rinsing cooking fats and food scraps down the sink



When oil and grease hit the cool water in your wastewater pipes they harden. They then combine with other waste like wet wipes to form a hard blockage known as a 'fatberg'. These blockages can cause overflows which can be a health and environmental nightmare; with wastewater backing up and overflowing into homes, backyards and local waterways. What's more, you could be looking at an expensive plumbing bill to fix a blocked drain.

## What can I do?

The cleanest and greenest place for household waste to end up is in the bin, not down the sink or toilet.

### In the bathroom:

Keep a bin in your bathroom for:

- wet wipes
- cotton buds
- sanitary items
- cleaning cloths
- tissues
- dental floss
- any other rubbish.



The only things that you should flush down your toilet are human waste and toilet paper. Whilst some brands of wet wipes might say that they're flushable - they're actually not - and make up to 75% of all blockages.

### In the kitchen:

- Scrape food leftovers into the bin or compost
- Wipe greasy pans and dishes with a paper towel before washing up
- Pour any used oil, fatty liquids or old milk into a container and place it in the bin.
- Use a sink strainer to catch small pieces of food.



If you follow these simple steps, you'll help protect both your pipes and the environment from nasty blockages, plus save money on plumbing costs.