

# TEN ways you can protect your sewer system



Follow these tips to protect your plumbing, save money, and keep our creeks and river clean. You'll be a hero of the people!

## 1 Call us first!

If you've got a sewer backup, our crew will check it for FREE. This can save you a plumber's visit if the problem is in our lines. Day, night or weekends, just call 258-6000, and a crew member will contact you within 30 minutes.

## 2 No FOG down the drain.

FOG (fats, oils, grease) can cause clogged sewer lines, even if you wash them down with hot water and soap—when the water cools the FOG solidifies in your pipes. Instead, scrape fat and grease into the trash can. Used vegetable oil can be recycled at the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. See [www.NapaRecycling.com](http://www.NapaRecycling.com) for details.



## 3 Just because it's a liquid...

...doesn't mean it should go down the drain. Household products like paint, solvents and pesticides can wreak havoc with processes at the wastewater treatment plant. To safely dispose of these products, take them to the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

## 4 Plethora of pills?



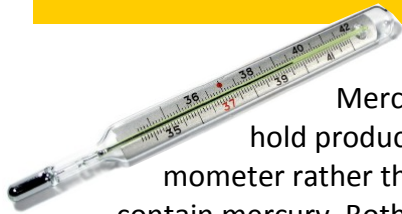
Unneeded or expired medications can accumulate and create a hazard for children. But DON'T flush them away. Take them to Clinic Ole in Napa, Calistoga or St. Helena, or to the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. You'll protect your family and improve water quality! For details, check [www.NapaSanitationDistrict.com](http://www.NapaSanitationDistrict.com).

## 5 How to make your pool, spa or fountain "green".

Controlling algae in your pool, spa or fountain with a copper algaecide threatens aquatic life in our local waterways. Instead, control algae with proper chlorine levels and regular cleaning, and don't drain your pool, spa or fountain to a street, gutter or storm drain. Call the Napa Sanitation District at 258-6000 to get a permit to drain your pool to the sanitary sewer. Spa or fountain water should be drained to a landscaped area.

### 6 Disconnect your downspout.

If the downspouts from your roof are connected to the sanitary sewer, that extra rainwater during storms can overwhelm the sewage system, resulting in sewage overflows. This creates a health hazard for humans and wildlife alike. Plus connecting your downspouts to the sewer is illegal!



### 7 Where's the mercury?

Mercury is a highly toxic metal, and it's part of many everyday household products. To prevent it getting into your drains, switch to a digital thermometer rather than the old glass and mercury type. Fluorescent light bulbs also contain mercury. Both thermometers and used fluorescent bulbs can be disposed of at the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

### 8 Healthy home & garden.



You can maintain your home and garden and still protect the health of your family, pets and the environment. Adopt less toxic, common sense techniques for managing pests, and when necessary, dispose of toxic products at the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. For more information and resources, visit Our Water, Our World at [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org).

### 9 Send less \$\$ down the drain.

Conserving water saves you money, and also reduces the load at the wastewater treatment plant. Napa Sanitation District and the City of Napa offer rebates when you purchase an efficient toilet or washing machine. See [www.napasanitiationdistrict.com](http://www.napasanitiationdistrict.com) or [www.cityofnapa.com/water](http://www.cityofnapa.com/water) for details.



### 10 Rethink what you flush.

Flush ONLY toilet paper in the toilet! Dispose of other items in your regular trash. This includes baby wipes, hair, bandages, make-up pads, kitty litter, sanitary products, etc. Even products that are labeled "flushable" should not go down the drain—they can clog your pipes and sewage pump stations, damaging equipment and causing overflows. Remember, the toilet is NOT a trash can!

<b>Re-</b> <b>SOURCES</b>	<b>Napa Sanitation District</b> ..... (707) 258-6000 <a href="http://www.napasanitiationdistrict.com">www.napasanitiationdistrict.com</a>
	<b>Hazardous Waste Collection/Recycling</b> ..... (800) 984-9661 <a href="http://www.naparecycling.com">www.naparecycling.com</a> ..... (707) 255-5200
	<b>Water conservation</b> ..... (707) 257-9497 <a href="http://www.cityofnapa.org/water">www.cityofnapa.org/water</a>