

## Different Types of Sewer Systems In Your Community

### Conventional Sewer System (CSS)

CSS collect waste water directly from homes, businesses and industry by means of gravity directly into the sewer system. Flow will be thru the laterals (typically 4" to 6") to the sewer mains (typically 8" to 12") to pump stations and on to the treatment facility. CSS are usually more costly to install and require maintenance to the collection system and pump stations.

### Small Diameter Gravity System (SDGS)

SDGS consist of a septic tank and small diameter discharge line (typically 1 1/4") to the sewer main by gravity. Wastewater will flow thru the sewer main (typically 2" to 6") to pump stations and on to the treatment facility. SDGS usually cost less to install and maintain. The Facility Operator will periodically pump the septic tank as required to remove the solids.

### Step Systems Pressure System (SSPS)

SSPS consist of a two compartment septic tank. The first compartment collects the solids and allows the gray water to flow into the second compartment. A pump is located in the second compartment and will pump the gray water into the small diameter pressure line (typically 1 1/4") to the sewer main. The pressure sewer main will carry the gray water to the treatment facility. Periodic pumping of the septic tank, as determined by the Facility Operator will be required to remove the solids.

### Grinder Pump Pressure System (GPPS)

GPPS consist of a single compartment collection/pump chamber. Solid material will be ground into tiny pieces. All of the wastewater is then pumped out into the pressurized sewer main (typically 1 1/4"). The pressurized sewer main (typically 2" to 6") will carry the wastewater to the treatment facility. Periodic pumping of the pump chamber is not required.

## Do's and Don'ts When Connected to Municipal Sewer Systems

### Do



Practice water conservation to prolong the life of your sewer system.

Call Miss Dig (800-482-7171 or 811) at least 72 hours before any excavation is to be done on your property.

Limit water usage during power outages as the sewer pumps may not be running.

### Do Not

Connect eve troughs to your sewer.

Connect storm drains to your sewer.

Connect perimeter drains to your sewer.

Connect water softeners to your sewer.

Build decks over sewer system.

Put fences over sewer system.

Place landscaping over sewer system.

Bury manhole covers.

Plant trees, shrubs near sewer system.

Attempt to repair the sewer pumps yourself.



Elicit connections such as eve troughs, perimeter footer drains, sump pumps and water softener discharge can cause premature failure of your grinder pumps, sewer pump station failure, sewer backups and possible DEQ permit violations.

Elicit connections are not allowed to be connected to the sewer system and may be in violation of your local township ordinance. Check with your local township office.

Accessibility to all components of a sewer system is a must. Not having immediate access to grinder pumps, manholes, etc. can cause delays in returning service in a timely manner, can lead to backups in the home and loss of personal property.

If you are unsure of where your grinder pump, sewer line, etc. is located, please contact the Lenawee County Drain Commission at (517- 264-4696) for assistance.

## Do Not Flush List

*The following items should never be disposed of in the public sewer system:*

- Diapers (Cloth, disposable, flushable)
- Baby wipes and facial cloths (including flushable)
- Cleaning wipes (i.e. Swiffer or equivalent)
- Paper towels and napkins
- Cooking oils and grease
- Toilet bowl scrub pads (including flushable)
- Disposable mops
- Sanitary napkins, tampons, applicators
- Condoms
- Rags and cloths
- Undergarments
- Cotton swabs, cotton balls, bandages
- Dental floss
- Volatile substances (i.e. gasoline, chemicals, paint)
- Syringes
- Rubber gloves
- Small toys
- Plastic bags
- Caps from any containers (shampoo, soda, etc.)
- Glass
- Metal
- Coffee grounds
- Gravel, sand (including aquarium stone)



Flushing of these items into the public sewer system may cause major blockages in the sewer lines (triggering backups in the system which may lead to damage in or to your property).

These items can also cause damage to expensive sewer equipment (i.e. grinder pumps, pump stations) in the sewer collection system or inside the sewer treatment facility. Ultimately the cost to maintain the sewer system is affected and sewer rates may need to be increased.

**Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)**



Grease sticks to household pipes and sewage pipes, as well as trash. Over time, grease build-ups will block the entire pipe and result in raw sewage backing up into your home or overflowing into the street or waterway. Running hot water down the sink simultaneously with the frying oil does not keep it from solidifying in the pipe. It's already cold by the time it hits the larger system and can plug the pipes completely. You should never pour grease into your sink, drain or toilet. Use the garbage disposal sparingly; by composting vegetable food waste you will save gallons of water each day. Pour grease and oil into a can and put it in the trash.

**Proper Disposal of Grease**

(Discard with regular garbage)



**Unused Medications**

When you do not dispose of your medications properly, they make their way into the drinking water. You should never flush unused medications or pour them down the drain or toilet. You should never throw your unused medications into the trash.

There are many drug take-back programs which you can take advantage of. Drop off unused medications at specified locations in our community. Drug take-back programs are organized by state and local government agencies and also thru private institutions, including pharmacy chains.



The following local business will take your household hazardous waste products. Call them to make arrangements.

**SYRINGES/SHARPS**

(Must be in Sharps Container)

- Wheelock Pharmacy (Church St. \$\$\$)..... 263-7175
- Schmidt & Sons ..... 423-3250
- Schmidt & Sons ..... 486-2146
- Schmidt & Sons ..... 456-4150

**BATTERIES**

- Battery Wholesale (all) ..... 263-3462
- Dusseau Auto Parts (auto) ..... 265-5684
- Lowe's (rechargeable) ..... 266-1000
- WalMart ..... 265-9771

**COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS**

- Lowe's (no tube bulbs) ..... 266-1000

**OIL ANITFREEZE & OTHER LUBRICANTS**

	Oil	Anti Freeze	Other Lubricants	COMMENTS
WalMart 265-9790	♦	♦	♦	5 gallon/day limit
Ed Johnson 265-9752	♦	♦		\$\$\$
Lentz Auto 265-8914	♦	♦	♦	
Victory Lane 263-1447	♦	♦		
Lenawee Tire 263-2128	♦			
Brooklyn Quick Oil 592-9009	♦	♦		
TSC Farm Service 263-2831	☐			5 gallon limit
Auto Zone 263-5383	♦			5 gallon limit

\$\$\$ indicates "fee for service"



Lenawee County Drain Commission  
320 Springbrook Avenue, Suite 102  
Adrian, MI 49221

**IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION  
CONCERNING YOUR  
SEWER SYSTEM**

Lenawee County Drain Commissioner  
Water and Sewer  
24 Hr. Emergency Number  
1-866-737-2862