Specialists in Design, Installation & Maintenance of Sewage and Waste Water Treatment Systems
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SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS
PROCESS DO'S AND DON'TS

Your sewage treatment system uses colonies of live natural micro-organisms (Biomass) to break down the pollutants in sewage. Many chemicals used in households and commercial establishments can inhibit or kill theses micro-organisms; particularly if used in excessive amounts.

If the Biomass is damaged, it will usually recover in time. But in the meanwhile one of the most obvious symptoms may be an unpleasant smell.

The following notes are intended to provide guidance only on materials that can or cannot be allowed to enter the system, but it is not an exhaustive list and the golden rule is "if in doubt - leave it out."

CLEANING FLUIDS AND POWDERS:

DO - use in moderation. Most of those on the domestic market are acceptable, but only use the minimum required to carry out effective cleaning i.e. As per the manufacturer's instructions. Excessive use of biological washing powders can cause degradation of the Biomass that breaks the sewage down within the treatment plant which can then lead to odour problems, Non biological detergents, without enzymes may be substituted.

DO NOT - pour neat disinfectant or bleach down sinks or outside gullies. If these are smelly it usually indicates a build-up of decaying material or a plumbing problem and should be dealt with accordingly.

Bear in mind that treatment plants serving small populations do not have the benefit of dilution that occurs at a large sewage works. A bottle of bleach tipped down the toilet in Birmingham would be virtually lost amongst the millions of gallons of sewage arriving at the city's treatment works; a bottle of bleach in a treatment plant serving just a few houses could be a lethal dose for the Biomass.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE:

DO NOT - allow roof & surface water drainage, or discharges from swimming pools or ponds to enter the plant.

MOTORING FLUIDS:

DO NOT - allow oil, petrol, brake fluid, antifreeze etc. to enter the plant.

FATS, OILS AND GREASE

DO NOT - allow fats, oils and grease such as fat from frying pans and chip pans to enter the plant.

HOME & GARDEN PRODUCTS

DO NOT - allow weed-killers, insecticides, fungicides or any other gardening chemicals to enter the drains.

DO NOT - allow photographic developing fluids, creosote, paint thinners, white spirit, etc. to enter the drains.

HOME BEER & WINE MAKING

Your sewage treatment system has to work as hard to treat one pint of beer tipped down the drain as it does to treat all the normal waste produced by one person in 24 hours it is much better to dispose of this by other means!

TOILETS

DO NOT - allow nappies, sanitary towels, plastics, rags, soft toys, tennis balls etc. to be flushed down the toilet. This may seem obvious but it is amazing what gets flushed down the loo! Even so-called disposable nappies and sanitary towels do not fully degrade in the treatment plant and can lead to a malfunction.

Remember, your sewage treatment plant uses a biological process which can be inhibited if 'unfriendly' substances are allowed to enter the system, if this situation should occur consult **ALRO** for further advice.