## CORNWALL HOUSING

# **Sewage treatment system** A guide for residents

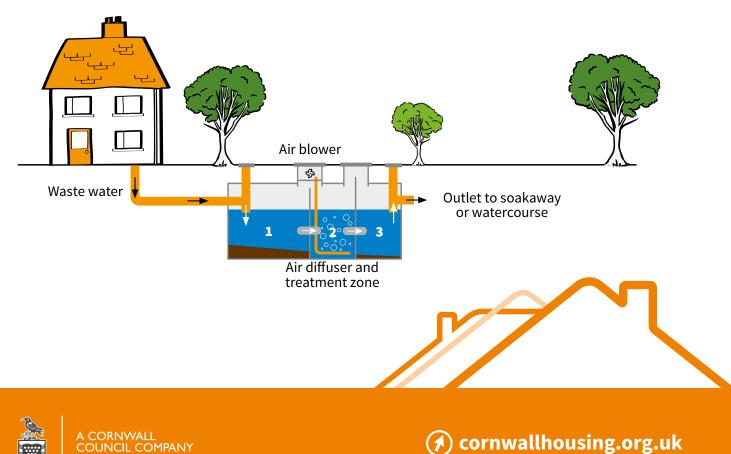
We want to make sure that your sewage treatment system is working effectively and correctly at all times. Your toilet, sink, bath and basin are all connected to this system, so it is really important that you know what you can/can't put down them to prevent any blockages or leaks happening.

We've put together this short guide to help you know how to use it correctly and what can/can't be put into the system.

## What is a sewage treatment system?

A sewage treatment system is a large container that stores the sewage and water waste from your home. It separates the solid from the liquid waste. Microorganisms living in the tank break down the pollutants in the solid waste, whilst the liquid waste is filtered and cleaned. That treated wastewater is then released naturally back into the environment.

### Sewage treatment system



## What can't I dispose of down my toilet, sink, bath or basin?

#### **Household items:**

- Nappies
- Contraceptives
- Make up wipes/cotton buds or pads
- Rags
- Soft toys, including tennis balls

#### Fats, grease, oils or fluids:

- Any cooking fat, grease or oil either wait until they have turned solid or pour them into a container and place them in the bin
- High fat dairy products, eg. cream, milk etc.
- Alcoholic drinks, eg. beer, wine etc.
- Nail polish remover
- Mouth wash or neat self-cleaning products, eg. shower gels, anti-bacterial hand wash
- Baby disinfectants or bottle sterilising fluids

- Sanitary products
- Wet wipes (even if they say biodegradable/flushable)
- Bandages, personal hygiene items or syringes
- Plastic items, or anything containing plastics
- Bleach, disinfectant or floor cleaning products
- Motoring fluids, eg. petrol, diesel, antifreeze etc.
- Photographic developing fluid
- Weed killers, insecticides, fungicides or other garden chemicals
- Paint, paint thinner, white spirit, creosote or turpentine

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Please remember, **if you're in doubt** about whether you should dispose of something down your toilet, sink, bath or basin... **leave it out** and place it in the bin instead!

## Did you know? Even when a product is labelled as 'flushable' or 'biodegradable', they often do not fully degrade and can lead to blockages or cause big problems for the system and pricey repairs. Wet wipes are the biggest cause for sewage system failures each year in the UK with 200,000 wipes being flushed daily! Contact us: Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk

Telephone: 0300 1234 161 By letter, to Cornwall Housing, Chy Trevail, Beacon Technology Park, Bodmin, PL31 2FR

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