

UNDERSTANDING SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS



A sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) is any overflow, spill, release, discharge or diversion of untreated or partially treated wastewater due to an obstruction, system failure, or capacity exceedance at the wastewater facility or in the contributing collection system.

stormwater systems where it can impact surface waterbodies such as lakes, rivers and estuaries.

An SSO can introduce wastewater onto streets and into





drains before it can reach a treatment facility.

SSOs can cause wastewater to back-up in toilets, sinks and

impact that SSOs have on the environment and local infrastructure.

By taking the proper steps, you can help to reduce the overall



• Fats, oils and grease thicken as they cool, coating pipes and equipment. This can lead to backups, overflows and

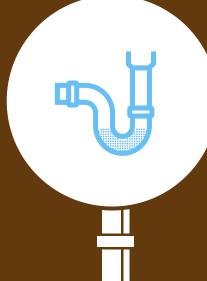
FATS, OILS AND GREASE

- pump failure. • Collect oil and grease in a container and dispose of it in the trash or at an approved collection site. Never dump
- oil or grease down the drain.

Scrape grease and food scraps from dishes into the trash can or your compost pile. Avoid using the garbage

FOOD WASTE

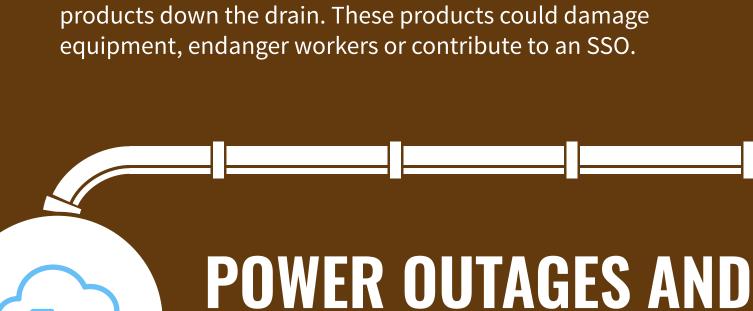
- disposal where possible. • Use a strainer to catch smaller food particles that can attach to build up in pipes, tangle or expand when wet to form clogs.
- Never dump coffee grounds or flour down the drain.



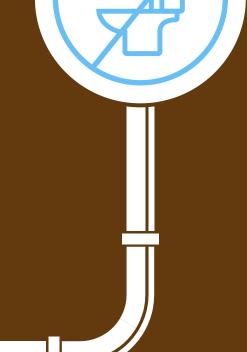
hygiene products, which can cause an SSO clogging pipes or tangling on equipment. Even "flushable" products can

increase the risk of SSOs. Use sink and shower drain strainers and empty them frequently. Hair, dental floss and other string-like items tangle in drains and may form a clog.

Don't flush sanitary items, such as wipes and feminine



PRODUCTS



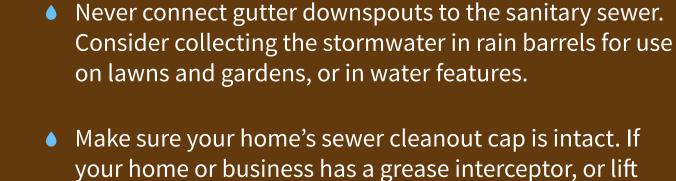


the system's capacity.

CHEMICALS, MEDICATIONS

Don't dispose of chemicals, medications or personal care

AND PERSONAL CARE



station, make sure the lid stays closed.

drain flood water into the sewer system.

Avoid doing laundry or using the dishwasher during

heavy storms when power outages or groundwater and

stormwater entering the collection system can reduce

Never remove manhole covers or sewer cleanout caps to

- CRACKED OR BROKEN
- If there is a lift station on your property, ensure a buffer is present to prevent damage from motorized vehicles.

Avoid planting trees and shrubs close to sewer lines as tree

• Call 811 before you dig to locate your utility lines. Be careful

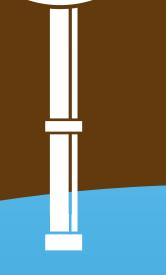
Additional compaction of the soil could cause the pipe to

• Avoid driving over sewer lines with heavy equipment.

crush, crack or separate at the joint.

when digging dear utility lines to avoid damage and injury.

roots can intrude into a sewer line and cause cracks and clogs.



PIPES

GET INVOLVED!

• Check the utility's website or local newspaper for an event calendar or notices of public meetings.

next community event.

WHERE CAN I REPORT SPILLS? Keep the emergency number for your wastewater

service provider on hand, or please contact the:

Work with your local utility to provide SSO outreach at your

STATE WATCH OFFICE

1-800-320-0519

REGULATORY OFFICE IN YOUR AREA

FloridaDisaster.org/dem/response/operations

FloridaDEP.gov/districts

PROTECTING TOGETHER ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov