

# Don't use your toilet as a rubbish bin!

Waitomo District Council provides a sewerage treatment and disposal network for Piopio. This protects public health and ensures the effective disposal of sewage in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The onsite wastewater systems (tanks) located on Piopio properties cannot accept harmful products or items. Fats, oils, greases and objects like sanitary items, nappies or anti-bacterial wipes will reduce the efficiency of the system. This leads to blockages, slow draining toilets and other plumbing issues.

The only substance that should be flushed, tipped or drained into the wastewater system is **human waste, toilet paper, mild detergent, wash/ dish and bath water.**



## These items belong in the rubbish bin:



Disposable wet wipes  
Protective underwear  
Sanitary products



Grease/ Oil



Cigarette butts

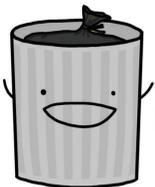
Hair



Cotton buds,  
dental floss



Harsh chemicals, chlorine bleach,  
rug cleaners, pharmaceuticals.



The label on some products may say 'flushable' but disposable wipes and other products clog sewer pipes and damage pumps and wastewater systems. These types of issues are expensive to fix and can cause raw sewage overflows into homes, businesses and local waterways. So put rubbish in the bin, not in the toilet bowl.

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**Waitomo**  
District Council

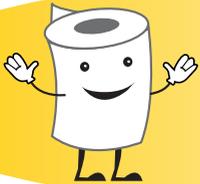
[www.waitomo.govt.nz](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz)

# Tips for house cleaning

Waitomo District Council would like to support residents by providing the following information about the septic tank located on your property.

Any harsh chemicals flushed or drained from the house into the system, will negatively affect the performance of the biological agents that exist within the tank.

All the necessary precautions should be adhered to by property owners. This includes using your rubbish bin to dispose of substances that cause maintenance issues and/or increase the need for septic tank pumping and using non-hazardous cleaning products inside the home.



There are affordable substitutes for household hazardous cleaning products, that are less harmful to our environment.



- **Surface cleaning:** sprinkle baking soda on a damp sponge and wipe down surfaces.
- **Windows:** use a solution of 30mL white vinegar to 1 litre water. Pour the mixture into a spray bottle and use to wipe down windows, dry with a clean rag.
- **Disinfectant:** Use borax (sodium borate) - 100 grams in 4 litres of water. This deodorizes as well. *Borax is also useful as an insect killer, fungicide, herbicide, laundry booster.*
- **Drain unclogger:** Use a plunger or remove and clean the trap.
- **Scouring cleaners and powders:** Sprinkle baking soda on a damp sponge or add 50 grams baking soda to 1 litre warm water.
- **Toilet cleaner:** Sprinkle on baking soda then scrub with a toilet brush.
- **Laundry detergent:** Choose a liquid detergent (not powder) that doesn't have chlorine or phosphates.



Plumbing issues that occur inside the home are the responsibility of the resident to resolve and a plumber must be contacted to investigate further.

**If you experience an issue with your wastewater tank and an alarm is generated from the on-site wastewater system - then it is important that you contact Waitomo District Council on 0800 932 4357.**