

PAPATOETOE MATTERS



By wiping leftover oil from pots and pans into the rubbish bin before rinsing and washing, like our trade waste compliance advisor Shabneez Hussain is doing, you can help prevent fatbergs in pipes.

Don't feed the fatberg!

Recently, one of our maintenance crews urgently attended a call-out on Great South Road, Papatoetoe.

They found wastewater overflowing from manholes onto two private properties. Acting quickly, our crew's first priority was to clean up the area to protect the health of the families living in the properties as well as the surrounding environment.

Because there had been a number of problems at this location over the past few years, we investigated further. We used a camera to see inside the wastewater pipe and found a fatberg blocking the pipe downstream of the affected properties.

This fatberg was caused by local homes and businesses pouring fat down their plugholes. It didn't travel far before it began to cool and stick to rubbish flushed down the toilet, like wet-wipes and sanitary products.

As well as investigating with CCTV camera inspections and flushing out around 4 tonnes of solids from the wastewater pipeline, our staff talked to local businesses in the area about how to correctly dispose of fats, oils and grease.



Parts of the fatberg that was blocking the pipe.

You can help to prevent fatbergs too, by following a few simple steps when you get rid of fat, oil and grease from cooking.

- Let leftover fat, oil or grease cool, then scrape it into the rubbish bin. You could also add it to your compost, or dig it into your garden.
- Scrape leftover food from pots and pans into your rubbish bin before rinsing and washing.
- Add a strainer to your sink to catch food scraps and other solids that can collect with any fat to create a blockage.

FOOD OUTLETS VISITED



Staff from Watercare visited nearby food outlets in Great South Road, Papatoetoe, with information on how to dispose of fats, oil and grease correctly.

When cooking juices are poured down the sink, they can harden and cause blockages in pipes.

Help to reduce local overflows

Every time you flush the toilet, pull the plug from a sink or have a shower, the wastewater drains into your private plumbing and out to our network.

While the wastewater that enters our network is mostly water, it also contains human waste, food scraps, fats, debris, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Some of this can build up in private and public pipes, causing overflows which can be harmful to our health, harbours and waterways. This is why it's important for all of us to think about what we pour or flush down our private drains.

Did you know?

73% of overflows during fine weather are caused by people pouring fat down the sink, flushing rubbish down the toilet, and planting trees next to pipes in your area.



Toilet

Flush away toilet paper and human waste

- Don't flush:
- wet-wipes
 - sanitary products
 - nappies
 - rags

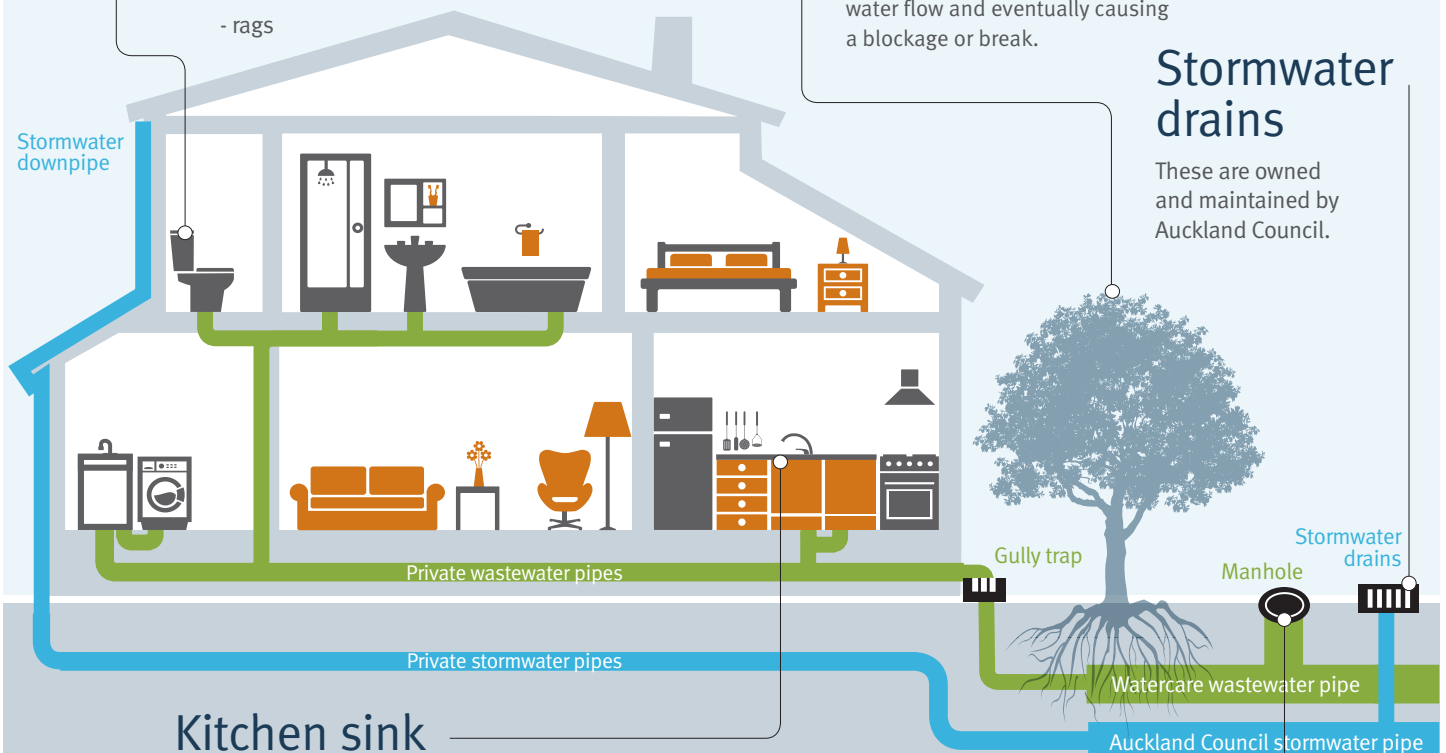
Tree planting

Plan your planting

Before planting a tree it's a good idea to check that it's not going to grow over your pipes or ours. As trees mature so do their roots and, over time, they can reach pipes and damage them, obstructing the water flow and eventually causing a blockage or break.

Stormwater drains

These are owned and maintained by Auckland Council.



Kitchen sink

Let cooking juices cool, then scrape the fat into the bin

- Don't pour hot cooking juices down the plughole. Once cool, the fats in the cooking juices harden and may block your pipes or ours.

Manholes

Give us a call

If you come across an overflow from a manhole, please phone us on (09) 442 2222. We're available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Contact us

Papatoetoe Matters is your newsletter. If you would like to talk to us about any stories from this edition or your ideas for future issues, we'd love to hear from you. To get in touch, please phone our communications team on (09) 442 2222 or email communications@water.co.nz.