

Common Household Wastes

A Guide for Renters

Batteries

Batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel, which can contaminate the environment when batteries are improperly disposed of. Many of these heavy metals can be reclaimed when batteries are recycled. Dry cell, rechargeable, nickel-cadmium or lithium, can all be recycled at Snohomish County Transfer stations.



Pet Waste

Did you know that pet waste contains many harmful microorganisms and bacteria that can live for as long as four years if not picked up? Let's keep our environment happy and healthy with these easy steps:

1. Scoop the poop
2. Put it in a plastic bag
3. Place it in the trash
4. Wash your hands



Unwanted or Expired Medications

If you have unwanted or expired medications, disposal is free at several locations. Visit www.med-project.org to learn how to properly package your meds for disposal and find a free drop-box near you.



Fats, Oils and Grease

Fats, oils and grease are found in common foods such as meat, fish, butter, cooking oil, sauces and food scraps. If you pour them down the drain or into your garbage disposal, fats, oils and grease will build up over time by sticking to your side sewer. This could eventually cause an expensive backup into your home or our natural water system.

Here are four simple ways to help prevent sewer backups:

- 1 Pour cooled fats, oils and greases into a covered disposable container and throw in into your garbage. Never pour fats, oils or grease down sinks or toilets.
- 2 Soak up remaining oils and grease.
- 3 Before you wash dishes, scrape food scraps, fats, oils and grease into your compost or trash.
- 4 Avoid putting fats, oils and grease down your garbage disposal. Use sink strainers to catch remaining food waste while washing dishes.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

