

**Here is a list of things you should avoid washing down your drain, sink or toilet.**

- Air Fresheners
- Automobile Fluids
- Automobile Parts
- Bacon Grease
- Bandages
- Batteries
- Bones
- Books
- Bread Dough
- Building Supplies
- Butter
- Cake Frosting
- Candles
- Cement
- Cell Phones
- Cheese
- Cigarettes
- Cigarette Butts
- Cleaning Supplies
- Clothing
- Coffee Filters
- Coffee Grounds
- Compact Discs
- Cosmetics
- Cotton Balls
- Cotton Swabs
- Condoms
- Cooking Oil
- Diapers
- Deceased Pets
- Dental Appliances
- Dental Floss
- Egg Shells
- Eyeglasses
- Facial Tissue
- Fat, Oil, or Grease
- Fertilizer
- Fruit
- Food Solids
- Glue
- Gravy
- Hair or Fur
- Hair Brushes
- Houseplants
- Insects
- Jewelry
- Keys
- Kitchen Grease
- Lard
- Mayonnaise
- Meat Drippings
- Medicine
- Metal Objects
- Money
- Oatmeal
- Paint
- Paper
- Paper Towels
- Perfume
- Pesticides
- Plastic
- Poison
- Powders
- Putties
- Rags
- Rocks
- Rubber Bands
- Salad Dressing
- Sanitary Pads
- Solvents
- Sour Cream
- Sponges
- Styrofoam
- Syringes
- Tampons
- Teeth
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Toys
- Vegetables
- Wet Wipes
- Yard Debris

**Are you covered?  
Sewer Backup Insurance Options**

Your homeowners insurance company may offer coverage for sewer and drain backups. This add-on to your regular policy could cost just a few dollars a year, depending on how much coverage you want.

Ask your agent for more information or contact the insurance companies listed below.

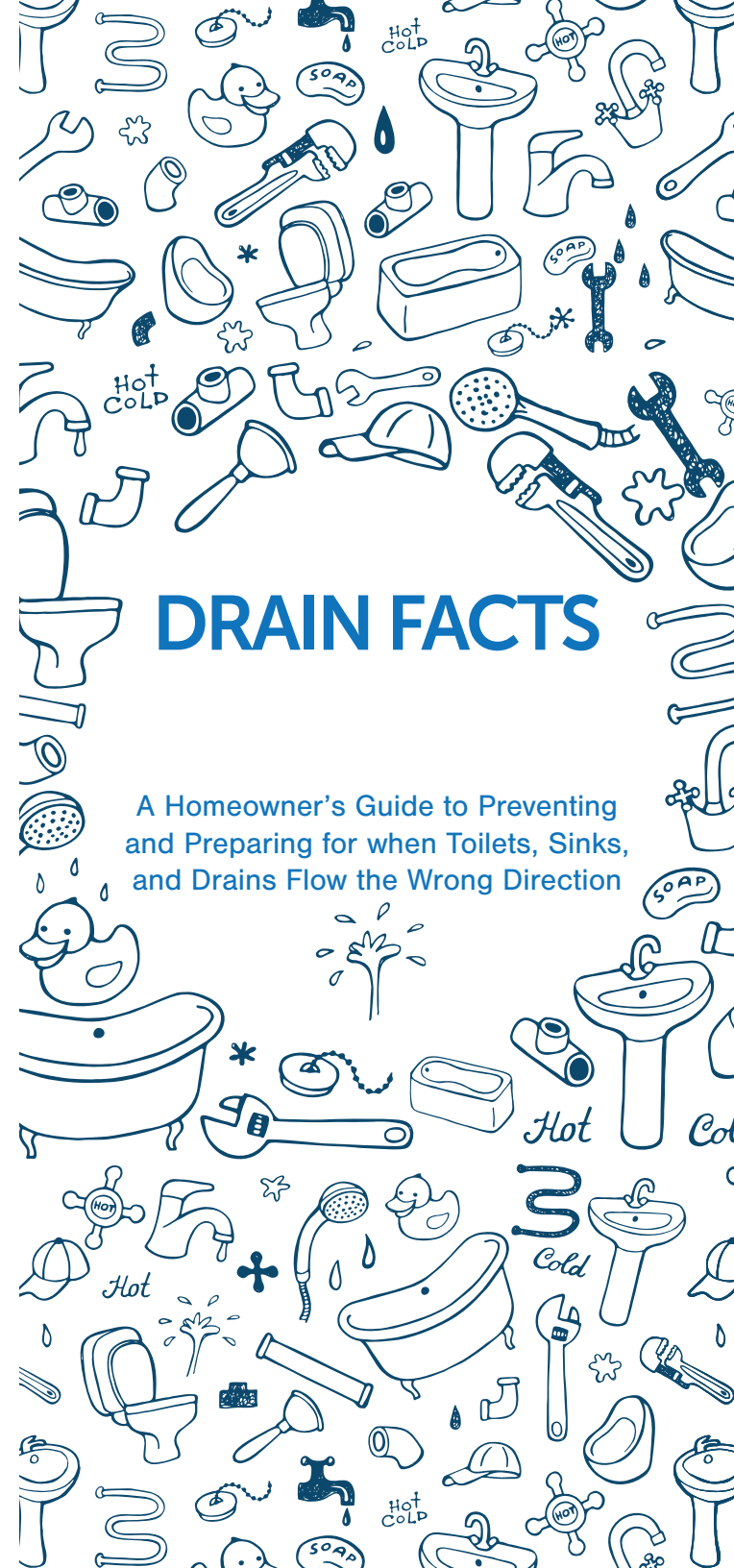
Allied Insurance	Farmers Insurance
Allstate	Farmers Union Insurance
American Family	Fireman's Fund
American National	Liberty Mutual
Chubb	Nationwide
Country Financial	Progressive
Farm Bureau Property & Casualty	Safeco Insurance
Colorado Farm Bureau Insurance	State Farm Insurance
	USAA



**Find more information online at  
[coveryourflush.com](http://coveryourflush.com)**

This information is provided courtesy of the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool and is intended as a precautionary advisory and not an all-inclusive preventative solution.

Homeowners are advised to consult insurance, plumbing and sanitation utility professionals for additional information.





## What should I do if I have a sewer backup?

- 1** Carefully try to close as many drains as you can, using care with ceramic plumbing fixtures
- 2** Don't run any water down any drain or toilet in your home until the clogs are cleared
- 3** Check if neighbors are effected. This could indicate a problem in the main line.
- 4** Call a plumber to assist with clearing the issue and closing your drains
- 5** Call your utility to report the issue. They'll recommend action and check the main line.
- 6** Call your homeowners' insurance company to determine what coverage may be available
- 7** Call a contractor to clean and restore your home to a livable condition. Your insurance company should be able to recommend one.

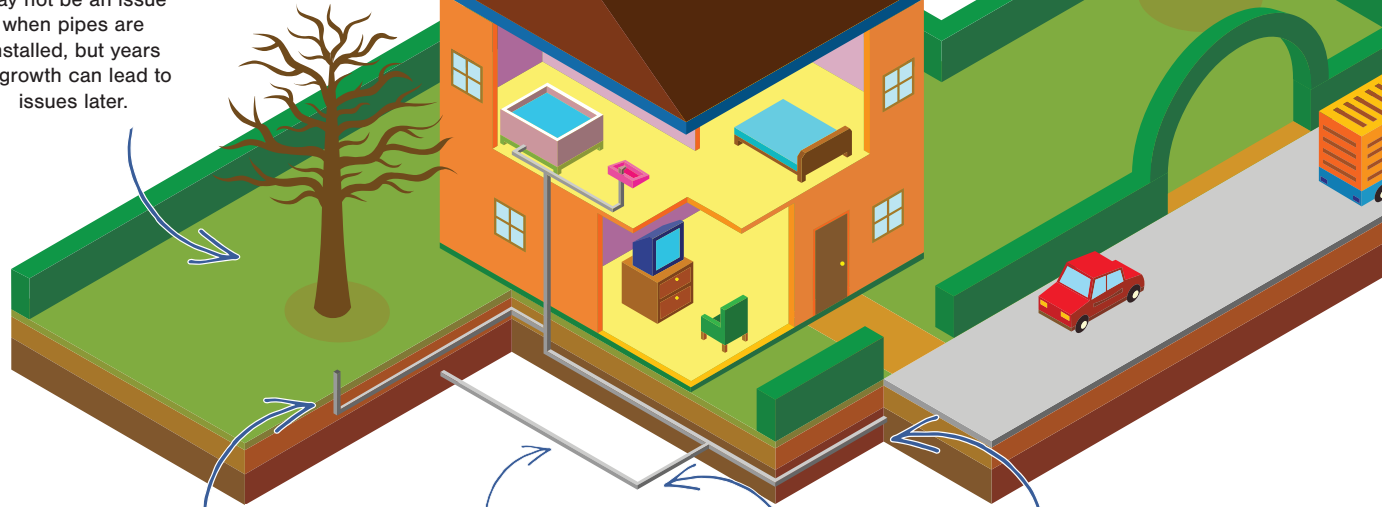


## Who pays to clean up the mess?

You do. If the backup occurs in your service line or in the main line as a result of anything other than the utility's negligence, it is ultimately your responsibility to clean up the mess and restore the line.

Your utility isn't responsible for your lines, or for acts of nature or vandalism. In many cases, the utility will coordinate clean up with a cleaning service to help minimize the damage, but the financial responsibility probably lies with you.

**Root Damage**  
Trees and their roots may not be an issue when pipes are installed, but years of growth can lead to issues later.



**Cracked Pipes**  
Temperature, ground movement, roots, clogs and poor installation can cause cracks which lead to back ups into your yard or home.

**Clogged Pipes**  
Clogs can be made of hair, kitchen grease, yard debris, diapers, or even paper products.

**Separated Joints**  
Underground pipes aren't solid, and can disconnect at the joint. This causes wastewater to back up into your home through drains.

**Mainline Backups**  
Weather, natural disasters, vandalism, and infrastructure breakdown can all lead to unavoidable sewer line issues.

## What can I do to safeguard my home?

- Plumbers can assess your risk and install back-flow valves to protect basements.
- You can use grease-fighting liquid dish soaps like Dawn to break up grease blockages.
- Review the list on this flyer of items to never wash down a drain.
- Make sure your homeowners insurance policy includes coverage for sewer backups.

## What are utilities doing to prevent back-ups?



Unfortunately, even with regular scheduled maintenance, some backups are simply unavoidable. These include events caused vandalism, infrastructure breakdown, ground movement or natural disaster.

Fortunately, most utilities use industry best practices to maintain sewer systems and lessen the risk of a stoppage. This includes video or physical inspections, the use of degreasing chemicals and regular cleaning.