

## ST HELENA'S SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Our business is the supply of electricity and water and the removal of sewage. When the sewerage system is working efficiently you don't notice it's there but when it goes wrong, it's particularly unpleasant and we all know about it!

Over the last few weeks there has been a number of cases of blocked sewerage pipes.

We have traced many of the problems down to misuse of the sewerage system. We thought it would be helpful to everyone to remind people about what the sewerage system is designed to accommodate and what will cause blockages.

### INDOORS

Toilet paper is specifically designed to disintegrate in water and so flushes away easily. Most other items are not designed to be flushed in this way. Although many items will disappear when you flush the toilet, because they don't disintegrate, they will cause a blockage further down the line. The most common cause of a blocked sewer is flushed nappies, baby wipes, sanitary towels and newspapers. These non-soluble items block the pipes and can cause the sewage to overflow from external manhole covers or come up through someone else's toilet or other bathroom fittings. If this happens, as well as clearing the blockage, we have to sanitise the area where sewage has leaked. This is especially unpleasant if it runs into someone's house. To avoid problems for all, please use the sewerage system properly. It is designed to take away sewage, not as an alternative to a bin.



### Never flush down the toilet:



### OUTSIDE

We have had a case recently where someone lifted a manhole cover in order to dump animal organs into the sewer. This is clearly not what the network was intended for. As well as being a particularly unpleasant pipe to unblock, rotting offal could present a potential health hazard.



Another common cause of blockages is site excavations. There have been a number of cases where, whilst excavating land, people have accidentally broken sewer pipes causing earth and rubble to get in to the network and cause a blockage.

Damage caused in this way would be the responsibility of the excavator operator or land owner and repair costs could be expensive. If you are planning on doing any excavations on your property and you know you are connected to the communal sewer, please get in contact with us on telephone number 22255 during working hours and we can help you

identify the location of the pipes.

25 September 2015

