

## Better safe than sorry A mess can be avoided

•Often we find that homeowners will store valuable items in their basements. If they must be stored in basements, keep items in waterproof containers and off the floor. As a preventive measure, laterals should be cleaned regularly to ensure they are free-flowing.

•Do not flush things down the toilet that should go in the garbage -- do not flush diapers, sanitary products or rags.

•Keep sewers fat-free by wiping excess grease, from dishes and pots and pans, with a paper towel. Place the soiled paper towel in your green cart. **Do not** pour grease down the drain.

•Check with your homeowner's insurance agent (or company) to review your coverage; generally, sewer backup coverage is an addition to a standard homeowner's policy.

•Never pour any leftover paints, oils, pharmaceuticals or other hazardous materials down your sink, toilet or storm drain. Household hazardous waste can be returned to HRM's Household Hazardous Waste Depot, located at 20 Horseshoe Lake Dr., Bayers Lake Business Park. Leftover latex and oil based paints can be returned to your local Enviro Depot. Leftover medicines and pharmaceuticals can be returned to your local pharmacy.

•Remember, "Only Rain in the Storm Drain"... and "Think before you pour it down the sink".

•Have a qualified plumber install a backflow preventer to help prevent any future sewer back ups.

**This brochure is intended to be general information only. Rules and Regulations for wastewater service can be viewed on our website at [www.halifaxwater.ca](http://www.halifaxwater.ca).**

# Guide to sewer backups

**Be careful!** A flooded basement, caused by a sewer backup, poses a risk of electrical shock and flood water may contain bacteria harmful to your health.

## In the event of a sewer backup:

- Call 490-4000 immediately, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to report the backup.**
- Call your insurance company as soon as possible to report any property damage caused by the flooding.**
- Be careful when cleaning up your flooded basement – be mindful of your health and safety.**
- Consider getting help with flooding clean up. Look up "water damage restoration" in the yellow pages.**