



Substances and products that you may **NOT** flush down the toilet or sink

Oils and fats

- engine and penetrating oil
- frying and baking fat or oil
- petroleum / kerosene
- salad oil (cooking oil)
- used oil

Chemicals and drugs

- ammonia
- bleach
- chemicals
- chlorine
- disinfectants
- medicines
- pesticides
- stain remover

Glue and paint residue

- glue
- paint (including those on water basis)
- thinner
- turpentine

Bandages, textiles and plastic

- adhesive strips
- cat litter box granules
- condoms
- cotton (products)
- diapers
- dressings
- panty liners
- plasters
- sanitary towels
- tampons
- textile
- wet tissues

CLEANING WASTEWATER



CLEAN WATER FOR NOW & LATER



Wastewater is harmful to our health and to the health of the coral reefs. That is why we treat our wastewater in a wastewater purification plant. Your cooperation is necessary to ensure that the purification plant continues to function well. Do not flush certain substances and products down the toilet or sink. You will read more about it in this leaflet for citizens and companies.

Waste water

Our coral reefs are amongst the most beautiful and richest in the Caribbean. Yet they are slowly but surely deteriorating because of an increased growth of algae. Algae grow more rapidly if there are many nutrients in the water. Research shows that nowadays there are much more nutrients in the seawater than decades ago. Those nutrients stem from the wastewater that we flush through the toilet, sink and shower. This is because of leaking cesspools and septic tanks that are not always foolproof. Our wastewater disappears into the soil and in that way reaches the sea through the groundwater. Sometimes we use wastewater for the plants in our garden. But oftentimes the plants get far more water than necessary. This also eventually reaches the sea through the soil and groundwater.

Healthy future

Our corals are smothered, which also decreases the number of reef fish. Our health is at risk due to the growth of harmful bacteria. If this continues, tourists will soon have little reason to visit Bonaire.

The economic consequences hereof are clear. We must therefore work together to keep Bonaire healthy, both above and under water. That is important for every resident or visitor, and any company or organization; and not the least for a healthy future for our children.

What you can do

To solve this problem the government has already taken a major step: the construction of two waste water treatment installations. The first one, on the premises of LVV, is already functioning. Tank trucks bring the wastewater from your cesspool or septic tank to the new wastewater purification plant.

The purification of wastewater is carried out by special bacteria. These bacteria eat the pollution. This works well only if we ensure that there are no chemicals in our wastewater which can kill these bacteria. Neither do we want products in the wastewater that can cause blockages. You can help with this: We urge you NOT to flush certain substances and products down the toilet or sink. Is that not just a small effort for a healthy future of Bonaire?

The substances and products in question are on the list to the right. Most of these substances and products can still be disposed of in a bin for household or commercial waste. In the future we will collect environmentally hazardous waste separately.

Citizens can submit used oil free of charge at SELIBON on Kaya Industria (next to Warehouse). Companies can call SELIBON to pick up used oil upon payment of a fee (tel. 717-8159).

TIP:

Avoid using chlorine, but use liquid soap or vinegar instead when cleaning. Also make sure that no salt water or sea water can reach your cesspool or septic tank. Salt water is not good for the purification process.

Disclaimer

This folder contains a very brief and free representation of the legal provisions. In a dispute you cannot rely on this publication. In that case, always consult the laws and regulations.

Colophon

This is a publication of the Public Entity Bonaire Plasa Reina Wilhelmina 1 Bonaire