

Mechanical Partners Inc.

10217 Plano Rd., Dallas, Texas 75238
Office: 214-343-0202
Fax: 214-503-1081
TACLA01907E M – 18123
service@mechanicalpartners.com

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Ms. Ann Germanow
The Scensible Source Co. LLC
P.O. Box 22991
Rochester, New York 14692

Re: Scensibles

Ms. Germanow,

The United States EPA; Every Municipal Waste Treatment Facility in the U.S., Pump Manufacturers, Plumbers, Drain Cleaners, Septic System Installers and Waste Pumping Companies all recommend refraining from disposing of this common list of items down toilets; sinks, drain-pipes, and garbage disposals:

- feminine hygiene products
- disposable diapers
- fats; oils, transmission fluid, anti-freeze, cooking grease
- coffee grinds
- egg shells
- dental-floss
- produce stickers
- paper towels
- flushable cat litter
- bags; wrappings & cardboard
- toxic chemicals; solvents, paints, turpentine, nail polish, polish remover
- flammable; or explosive substances
- corrosive substances that are either acidic or caustic
- needles & sharps
- prescriptions & over-the-counter medications

Any solid matter put down a toilet or drainpipe has the potential to cause blockages in both private sanitary drainage systems and public sewer systems. On the Private side, most drainage piping is of smaller diameter for Residential (1-1/2"; 2", 3" & 4", but occasionally 6" diameter). Commercial main lines vary on the inflow of the branches on system. Some Private Systems may be comprised of one or more of the following piping systems, which all have their own inherent attributes:

- **Cast-Iron Pipe- “Service Weight” (Lead Caulked or Gasketed) or “No-Hub” (Mechanical Coupled):** Over time this piping will lose its Bitumastic Petroleum Asphalt Coating and “scale-up” inside offering points in which “feminine hygiene products” may catch and become trapped on this scale. Also, tree-roots may enter through aged, failed pipe; gasketed connections, ground-shift cracks, separations and improperly supported lines on above-ground installations, adding to blockage problems. Tampon strings are extremely prone to catch.
- **Schedule-40 PVC and ABS Plastic Pipe (Solvent-Weld):** Although the piping interior is smooth, often ground-shift; improperly-made joints, improperly supported “cut-ins”, and occasional “bellied” pipe will allow for insufficient flow. Feminine hygiene products will stack-up in bellies resulting in blockages.
- **SDR-35 Plastic Pipe (Gasketed/ Solvent-Weld):** Similar to Schedule-40 and ABS, but offers more crush/ ground-shift opportunity due to thinner wall thickness, and gasketed joints may add potential for obstruction. Gasketed pipe can also trap feminine hygiene products.
- **Orangeburg Pipe (Gasket-less Joints):** 2” – 18” Comprised of cellulose fibers impregnated with hot coal tar pitch. Manufactured from 1940’s- 1970’s for drainage. Pipe softens with age & deforms allowing infiltration and root penetration. Most Orangeburg has been since replaced in most parts of the country.
- **Vitrified Clay “Tile” Pipe (VCT):** Ceramic product baked to a hard, durable substance like tile, 2’; 4’ & 6’ lengths. Grouted joints often allow for root penetration, leading to pipe failure (Cracking). Prone to Ground-shift, causing separation; bellies & ridges at joints. Feminine hygiene products are a large percentage of the cause of back-ups in VCT as well.

Many Municipal Systems are comprised of aged systems that are also often over-loaded & prone to failures and blockages, similar to Private Systems.

Other factors to consider, other than drain blockages is clogged pumps! Lift-Stations are used most-often in Municipal Piping Systems, fairly often in Commercial & less-often in Residential applications. These Foreign solids, Such as feminine hygiene products can also clog pumps, resulting in costly repairs & maintenance. Back-water Valves have flappers inside them to prevent sewage water from reversing flow to a residence or commercial property and preventing costly cleanup and damage. Feminine hygiene products can become trapped in these valves.

After 23 years in the Plumbing Trade, I've found yet another product that I will stand behind because it makes SENSE! With Water Conservation and Low-Flow Fixtures, solids in the drainage system are becoming more of an issue than ever. In close, I would like to express my personal appreciation for Scensibles. "The Plumber Protects The Health And Welfare Of The Nation"... The use of Scensibles helps protect The Plumber from exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens (BBP's)....

Thank You,

Darrell Cole,

Q.C. Manager

Service Division

Mechanical Partners, Inc.