

To Flush or NOT to Flush

What to Flush

Human waste and toilet paper should be the only things getting flushed down the toilet.

Why Should You Care?

Flushing anything besides human waste and toilet paper has the potential to clog pipes and pumps, or cause problems at the treatment plant. Blockages anywhere in the line or damage to the treatment system costs money to repair and nobody wants to deal with a sewer backup!

You Can Help!

To avoid expensive cleanups, increased bills, sewage overflows, harm to marine animals, or toxic environmental issues **DO NOT FLUSH:**

- Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, moist wipes, etc. (even if they say they are “flushable”!)
- Facial tissues, Q-tips, cotton balls
- Napkins, paper towels
- Dental floss
- Egg shells, nutshells, and coffee grounds
- Fats, oils, and greases
- Hair
- Condoms
- Cigarette butts
- Chewing gum
- Toilet bowl scrub pads
- Kitty litter
- Sanitary napkins, tampons
- Bandages
- Sheet plastic, or plastic of any kind
- Diapers (cloth, disposable, “flushable”)
- Pills/prescriptions (these can end up in water resources, impacting marine life and potentially getting into your drinking water!)
- Pets: goldfish/gerbils/etc.
- Automotive fluid
- Paint, solvents, sealants and thinners
- Poisons or any other hazardous wastes
- OR ANY OTHER ITEM that is not toilet paper or human waste!

Still Not Sure? Try This Test:

Fill two containers with water. In one water filled container add toilet paper, in the other water filled container add the other item. Stir both containers. Wait an hour, then stir again. The toilet paper should have significantly disintegrated and should easily fall apart when stirred. What does the other item look like? Did it fall apart or remain intact? Unless the other item disintegrated like the toilet paper, it should go in the garbage instead of the toilet!



Working together for Sustainable Utility Operations