

# Be Smart - Know What to Flush



Just because the label says 'flushable' does not mean it breaks down, or is good for plumbing.

Many new products, such as wipes, claim to be flushable. However, that doesn't mean they are treatable in our wastewater system. The fact is, some things should NEVER be flushed down the toilet or washed down the drain.

Here is a list of what not to flush, so you can protect your home's plumbing, your community's collection and treatment system, and your environment:

Cleaning rags, coffee grounds, eggshells, fats, oils, grease, food, hair, reinforced paper towels, baby diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, surgical or medical bandages and tubing, pads, kitty litter, dental floss, condoms, and prescription drugs.

These items do not belong in the toilet, or in the municipal wastewater treatment system. Flushing these can clog your plumbing and cause a lot of damage at your home, or miles down the line.

Wastewater treatment facilities are sophisticated systems designed primarily to treat organic wastes, such as human waste and household wastewater, with sensitive, natural processes doing the work of breaking them down safely. Untreatable products can interfere with or skirt those natural processes and harm pipes, pumps, systems and the environment. What does make it through must be captured, pulled out of the system and trucked to a landfill. That is a very expensive, labor-intensive way to dispose of something.

**Please flush wisely to protect pipes and the environment.**

Safely dispose of wipes, rags, reinforced towels, baby diapers, feminine hygiene products, surgical supplies and pads in the garbage. For information about disposal of prescription drugs, please visit [www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/recyclingA-Z.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/recyclingA-Z.html) and click on medications.

If you have any questions about what to flush, please call the Water-Sewer Department at (360) 817-1567.

**Thank you for your assistance in protecting our wastewater system!**

