

## FLUSH RESPONSIBLY

### WE MUST PROTECT OUR SEWERS AND ENVIROMENT

Some of the items we flush down our toilet, dump down our drain, or put in our garbage disposal may seem normal but in reality, can wreak havoc to our sanitary sewer pipes, sewer plant, and cause problems to our home/business plumbing.

Below are common items that are often flushed, but **SHOULD NOT BE**:



#### 1) Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)

- It may look like a liquid that can easily be dumped down the drain, but when it cools, it will harden and clog up your pipes. Your 4-inch sewer line overtime will become 2 inch or less causing sewage backups in your basement. Keep fats, oils, dairy products, grease, and greasy foods out of the sink and garbage disposal.

#### 2) Paper Towels / Rags

- Paper towels aren't likely to dissolve like toilet paper and will cause a backup in the sewer line. Paper towels and other rags will form larger globs only to tangle in pumps and burn them up. Toss them in the trash even if they are labeled flushable.

#### 3) Feminine Products

- These products are meant to absorb liquids, not break down in it, meaning they'll only expand when you flush them. This will cause toilet backups and sewer line blockages. A tampon can take up to 6 months to biodegrade but only a few hours in your sewer pipe to cause a backup and cause sewage to flow into your basement.

#### 4) Baby Wipes

- Even if they say they are flushable, never flush baby wipes. Baby wipes don't disintegrate the way toilet paper does and will frequently cause clogged sewers. They can also cause damage to pipes and equipment at the wastewater treatment plant.

#### 5) Kitty Litter

- Kitty litter is designed to clump on liquid contact, so flushing it down the toilet is a recipe for plugged plumbing and sewer mains.

#### 6) Household Hazardous Materials

- Flushing motor oil, pesticides, paint, or solvents will cause long term damage to the environment. Dispose of these items at your local hazardous waste collection site.

#### 7) Cigarette Butts

- Cigarettes are another waste item that can introduce potentially harmful chemicals into the water system and harm wildlife. When the cigarette butt gets wet it expands, overtime this could lead to a backup or clog in your plumbing or sewer line.

#### 8) Hair

- People that throw hair in the toilet are unaware it can form giant globs of debris, causing massive blockages in the sewer system and/or plugging lift station pumps.

#### 9) Medication

- Flushing unused or expired medication is shown to pollute waterways. Waste water treatment plants are not equipped to remove pills from the wastewater. Put them in a bag, close it up, and throw it away in the garbage.

## 10) Diapers

- Diapers are made to absorb liquids and not disintegrate, so if flushed there is a very high chance it will become clogged in your private plumbing or in the city's sewer system.

We can save ourselves thousands of dollars in expensive plumbing repairs and avoid polluting the environment by paying attention to what we put in our sanitary sewer pipes.



ONLY FLUSH THE 3 P'S – PEE, POOP, (TOILET) PAPER