



Wastewater Concerns

Just use it and flush it! What could be more convenient? Companies are now marketing dozens of products that offer the convenience of flushing: personal wipes, diapers, facial tissues, doggie bags, and kitty litter, to name a few.

These products might be good for business but they are bad for sewer systems. Whether you are connected to the municipal sewer or have your own septic system, these so-called “flushable” products can cause costly damage. A good rule of thumb might be to never flush anything that requires a label that claims it is flushable!

Sewer systems are designed to receive wastewater from kitchen utensil cleaning, bathing and human wastes. Period. Bacteria and natural chemical processes break down these products so the remaining effluent is safe to release to the environment.

Read on to find out what shouldn't be put in the sewerage system:

Kitchen and Laundry

- Don't pour cooking oil or fat down the sink. Cool off and dispose as garbage.
- Don't wash food scraps, tea leaves or coffee grounds down the sink. These could all be placed in a compost heap, to eventually go back to the garden.
- Use manufacturer's recommended amount of detergent for washing up in the kitchen and laundry.

Bathroom and Toilet

- Don't flush personal wipes, facial tissues, sanitary napkins, pads, disposable diapers, surgical bandages, and cotton tipped stems or pantyhose down the toilet.
- Don't flush razor blades, condoms, pharmaceutical products, cigarette butts, nail polish remover, toilet deodorant dispensers or other non-biodegradable products.

Be Responsible – Think Before You Flush

The wastewater treatment plant is one of the most expensive items in our town's infrastructure. When products that are not easily biodegradable enter the system it can clog pipes, ruin pumps, and greatly increase the costs of processing and maintenance—your tax dollars!

Private septic systems cost tens of thousands of dollars to install. Non-biodegradable products can lead to costly repairs or even failure of the system to require replacement. To protect your investment, use the system properly and have it pumped out and inspected on a regular schedule, at least every two years.