

TO FLUSH OR NOT TO FLUSH?

It's a Toilet, Not a Trash Can!

Never flush the following items (or put them down the garbage disposal or drain).
Toss them in the trash instead.

- Baby/Facial/Cleaning Wipes
- Tampons
- Sanitary Napkins
- Medication
- Hair
- Dental Floss
- Cotton Swabs/Balls
- Bandages
- Rags and Towels
- Rubber Items (like latex gloves)
- Fat, Cooking Oil, Grease
- Clothing Labels
- Candy/Food Wrappers
- Syringes
- Cigarette Butts
- Disposable Toilet Brushes
- Kitty Litter
- Aquarium Gravel
- Plastic Items
- Diapers
- Fruit Stickers
- Paper Towels



Presented by the Fond du Lac Wastewater & Resource Recovery Facility

WIPES

- They're advertised and marketed as “flushable” but that doesn't mean they breakdown or “biodegrade” like toilet paper does.



This is a sample of the debris that comes into our plant on a daily basis.

In 2017, we removed 159 tons of this waste. None of this material should have been flushed down a toilet or drain.



This Debris Consists of Mainly Non-Biodegradable Materials Such As:

- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Personal & Baby Wipes
- Paper & Rags
- Cleaning Wipes

All of these items can cause damage to our equipment which result in increased maintenance and repair costs.

Domestic waste pipes are typically just 4 inches wide and even bathroom products that claim to be flushable should be thrown in the garbage instead.



Disposable wipes can cause major problems when flushed down toilets. Because they don't break down the way toilet paper does, these wipes clog homeowner and municipal sewer pipes, put stress on the wastewater collection and treatment equipment, and cause us to spend thousands on premature equipment repair and replacement.



CONVENIENCE & COMFORT THEY'RE GOING TO COST YOU

Continuing to flush your wipes down the toilet will eventually lead to a clog, and this is not an “if”, or maybe, but a **when**, because this is something that is very likely to happen.

The problem isn't just the wet wipes because, the wet wipes are simply a part of the clog. Grease, hair, toothpaste, and even food that goes down the drain will all come together into one big clog. The larger the clog is, the harder it is to remove, and the more costly it's going to be for you to get rid of.

Many will first experience a problem with their toilet if they continue flushing wipes down the drain. The toilet may overflow at one point, or it's possible that it can't flush anything but keeps backing up into the toilet or slow draining.

Those that have a large clog caused by the wipes may also see that when they go to take a shower, the drainage in the shower is simply hoarding water as opposed to draining it.

There's also a possibility that when you're using the sink, the sink will not drain as well, and this all can be caused by a large clog within the drainage system in your home.

They also get drawn into sewer-line and wastewater treatment plant pumps and clog and damage them. Municipalities must manually clear out pumps or remove clogs.



Wipes snag on any imperfection in sewer pipes, catch passing debris and grease, and create a “ball” that will grow to plug the pipe.



“Flushable” wipes, combined with diapers, condoms, tampons and congealed fat, can stick together to form a gargantuan 'fatberg', like the one that clogged London sewers in 2017.

At 143.3 tons and covering 820 feet, it's the biggest ever unearthed in Britain. That's as heavy as at least 20 African elephants, and as long as 2.5 football fields.

It was rock solid and took an eight person crew working seven days a week more than three weeks to remove it.



The London “Fatberg”

QUICK FACTS AND STATISTICS

- The wipes market has been growing at 6% to 7% percent annually for much of the past decade.
- The problem costs U.S. utilities up to \$1 billion annually, according to the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.
- **90%** of flushed materials were not intended for wastewater treatment systems.
- Only **7%** of wipes are designed to be flushable.
- Wastewater systems suffer when blockages occur. It's been proven that particular difficulties arise when woven fabrics build-up within them such as disposable wipes – even if they are labeled as flushable.



Please Only Flush the Three P's:

Pee, Poo and Paper



BE AN ADVOCATE

- You can help educate others about **FOG** and Wipes by sharing this information with friends and neighbors.
- The Fond du Lac Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery Facility is working hard to improve water quality by informing residents and businesses of ways to reduce water pollution, sewer backups and improve the quality of life for those who live and work here.

