

Don't Flush That!

The dirty truth about wipes



The problem with flushable wipes

After you flush wipes down the toilet, including “flushable” ones, most don't break apart. This can lead to blocked pipes that overflow causing health concerns, environmental issues and property damage.

For property owners, blocked pipes can lead to toilet and sink overflows and costly repairs. For municipalities, blocked pipes increase costs due to unscheduled maintenance and may result in tax increases for the community.



What happens to wipes and other 'non-flushables' at the wastewater treatment plant.

Know what to flush

Only human waste and toilet paper should go down your toilet. This helps to keep sewer pipes running freely and to reduce problems at your local wastewater treatment plant.

Please don't use your toilets and sinks as garbage cans. Properly dispose of items once you are done using them.

Know where it goes

The chart below lists the correct disposal method for many household items that are routinely flushed.

Don't know where it goes? Ask the Waste Whiz at www.regionofwaterloo.ca/waste.

Item	Toilet	Garbage	Green Bin
Wipes: disposable wipes and disinfecting wipes including flushable wipes	☒	☑	☒
Bandages and wraps	☒	☑	☒
Extinguished cigarettes	☒	☑	☒
Coffee grinds, egg shells and food	☒	✓	☑
Cotton balls, pads and swabs with a rolled paper or wooden rod	☒	✓	☑
Cotton swabs with a plastic rod	☒	☑	☒
Dental floss	☒	☑	☒
Disposable diapers and baby wipes	☒	☑	☒
Disposable toilet brushes and cleaning sponges	☒	☑	☒
Fats, oils and grease	☒	✓	☑
Hair	☒	✓	☑
Paper towels and napkins	☒	✓	☑

☒ = Incorrect disposal method.

✓ = Only use this method if green bin option is not available.

☑ = Best disposal method.

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