



Can't Flush This!

Once wastewater leaves your property through sinks, toilets, or other drains, it all travels through a series of pipes and pumps on its way to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There are many household items that do not belong in the sewers, can cause clogging or blockages in these pipes and pumps, and lead to costly repairs to public or private property.



Unfortunately there can be misleading marketing and labeling of products. Even some products that are labeled “disposable,” or even “flushable,” may cause problems to the sanitary sewer collection system. Disposing of just a small amount of these materials in your sinks, drains, or toilets could cause clogging or sewer backups into your home or in the streets.



TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS™

Image courtesy of National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)

Rule of thumb: Only flush toilet paper and human waste into toilets. Below are some items commonly flushed that are best kept out of the your sinks and toilets:

- Baby Wipes
- Bandages
- Cigarette butts
- Cotton Balls
- Dental floss, and other dental hygiene products
- Fats, Oils, or Grease
- Feminine hygiene products
- “Flushable” wipes
- Hair
- Kitty litter, or pet waste bags
- Paper towels
- Microbeads (often in body washes)
- *Pharmaceuticals



***DON'T FLUSH YOUR UNWANTED MEDICATIONS!**

Instead, take them to a safe disposal facility. See the San Mateo County Health System website for a complete list of drop-off locations:

<http://www.smchealth.org/node/367>