

TO FLUSH OR NOT TO FLUSH?

Even the strongest toilets have limitations. What you flush down the toilet plays a role in the performance of the plumbing throughout your home, which is why you shouldn't flush certain items. Flushing small, seemingly unproblematic items like a clump of hair or a few Q-Tips can eventually form clogs.

So, what can you flush in the toilet or pour down your sewer drain lines? In short, normal body wastes, toilet paper, bath and sink water. Anything else could be problematic and may end up causing you financial hardships in the future.

Below is a list of the most common items that should not be flushed in a toilet or disposed of in any drain that leads to your sewer line, whether you are connected to a city sewer system or an on-lot sewage disposal system.

1 - Fats, Oils, and Greases. (F.O.G.)

Whether you are disposing of expired cooking oils, leftover grease or animal fat from cooking, these substances are not safe to dispose of through your drains or toilets. As soon as these items come into contact with cold water: the grease or fats will solidify and cling to the sides of your sewer pipe. Over time, this will cause a reduction in flow within your sewer lateral and eventually cause major blockages within your plumbing.

2 - "Flushable" Wipes

If you purchase wipes labeled as "flushable", you should avoid flushing these wipes in your toilet. Wipes and feminine products have a tendency to collect at any abnormalities of your sewer lines, causing blockages. Most wipes are labeled "flushable" on the package but they will not break down in water like normal toilet paper. To avoid issues within your service line please dispose of all wipes and feminine products in the trash.

3 - Cat Litter

Cat litter mainly consists of clay and sand. Most types of litter may also contain plastic-based particles. The grains of the litter products are formulated to clump together when wet. As a result of the litter forming a clump, it can cause serious plumbing problems. Feline waste is also prone to carry parasites and toxins, making it harmful to the wastewater ecosystem.

4. Drugs and Medications

You should always dispose of expired, over-the-counter drugs and prescription medications as directed by the pharmacy or your physician. These items leak chemicals into your drain system, the wastewater facility, and/or your own drinking water.