

It's a Toilet, Not a Trash Can

What Not to Flush

People sometimes view the toilet as an auxiliary wastebasket - an easy place to dump all kinds of things and make them disappear with the pull of a handle. Unfortunately, many of the items that often end up in the toilet - even products labeled "flushable" or "biodegradable" - can cause significant clogging problems not only in your home's wastewater plumbing, but also for your community's sewer system and in the WLSSD's treatment processes.

There are two things that can be safely flushed down the toilet: human waste and toilet paper. Any other item has the potential to clog up the system, regardless of how easily it appears to slide down the bottom of your toilet.

- **Common items that are often flushed that should not be include: Wet Wipes (Baby Wipes, Disinfecting Wipes, Flushable Wipes)**
- **Disposable Diapers**
- **Facial Tissues**
- **Feminine Hygiene Products and Condoms**
- **Grease**
- **Cotton Swabs and Band-Aids**
- **Dental Floss**
- **Cat Litter**
- **Cigarette Butts**

Often, these items do not even make it past the lateral connection from your home to your local sewer system, building up and clogging the line. If these products make it to the street, they can still plug up and damage the pipes and pumps that convey sewage to WLSSD, potentially causing overflows and basement backups that can be costly to repair. If those products make it to WLSSD, they can also jam up equipment there.

To help protect the investment we have all made in our homes and the municipal sewer system, please dispose of all disposable wipes, personal hygiene products, grease, and anything else that is not toilet paper or human waste in the garbage, not the toilet.

Pharmaceuticals and prescription drugs also should never be flushed down the toilet or thrown in the garbage. When put down the drain, drugs and pharmaceuticals can get right back into our drinking water supply, and be harmful to fish and other wildlife. Wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove these contaminants from their effluent. Drop-off sites at the local police departments are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year where you can safely dispose of unused or unwanted drugs or prescriptions.