

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF MOTLEY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATOR

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*Recently we have been having problems with items plugging up our lift station pumps resulting in after hour call in's and added pump repair and maintenance.*

Just because you flush human waste down the toilet doesn't mean sewers are waste disposal units. Sewers are designed to take away wastewater from sinks and baths, as well as toilet paper and human waste flushed down the toilet.

Every property owner connected to the city sewer system can be a potential contributor to sewer problems, and a potential victim of those problems. Putting the wrong things down the drain can damage the sewer system, cause sewer backups in your home, and sewer releases into the environment.

Just because the package says "flushable" doesn't mean it's true. Many items marketed as disposable and/or flushable do not degrade like toilet paper, and they wind up clogging pipes, tangling pumps and causing messy sewer backups into businesses and homes.

Our sewers are designed to dispose of very specific things. Using your toilet for disposal of many modern products will often result in blockages. The drains that connect your home to the main sewer are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste - often no wider than 4 inches.

### **Some items not to flush:**

- Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, moist wipes, etc.
- Diapers (cloth, disposable, "flushable")
- Sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, or any non-organic material
- FOG (Fats, oils, and greases)
- Dental floss
- Swiffers , toilet bowl scrub pads
- Napkins (paper or cloth), paper towels, facial tissues
- Egg shells, nutshells, and coffee grounds
- Food items containing seeds and peelings
- bandages and bandage wrappings
- Clothing, Wash cloths, towels, rags (any cloth item)
- Sheet plastic, or plastic of any kind
- Razors and blades, syringes and needles
- Vitamins, medicines or other pharmaceuticals (put original containers in a plastic zip-lock bag, throw the bag in the trash)

If you must use a "wet wipe" type of product rather than just toilet paper, these should be disposed of in the garbage, not down the toilet. While many "flushable wipes" packaging says that it will disintegrate like toilet paper, this generally is not accurate and these items can cause plugged pumps and messy sewage backups.

**Basically, the only thing you should ever flush down a toilet is human waste (urine and feces) and toilet paper.**

Thank you for the help keeping your wastewater treatment costs down!