



DON'T RUSH TO FLUSH! SOME ITEMS NOT BUILT FOR THE DRAIN

To flush or not to flush?

That is the question. But the answers are also quite simple. There are many items that, when flushed, create expensive problems for homeowners and the Township. The short answer? Only human sanitary waste and toilet paper should be flushed. But what about these common household items?

Flushable Wipes

They may be convenient, but flushable wipes can wreak havoc. And often, they are not as flushable as advertised. There is no standard definition of what "flushable" is – meaning those wipes could easily cause clogs. A wipe is only truly flushable if it breaks down in water within a few seconds.

Unsure if that wipe is flushable? Test it! Put the product in a jar and shake it for 30 seconds. Does it break down like toilet paper? If not, don't flush!

Prescription Drugs

Never flush medications, of any type, down a toilet or sink as the wastewater treatment facility are often unable to effectively remove them.

Synthetic drugs are not separated from the sludge. Most pharmaceutical drugs drop-out with the sludge, but a small amount passes through the wastewater treatment system and is carried downstream, negatively affecting wildlife and the environment.

Drugs should be disposed of through proper channels, such as local collection events or at pharmacies or doctors' offices.

FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

When fats, oils and grease – FOG – break down, they create a soap-like byproduct that combines with other materials that stick to the walls of pipes. FOG also combines with food, flushable wipes, and chemicals to create blockages within the system.

Over time, that material hardens, turning a liquid sludge into a concrete blockage – a process like the hardening of a person's arteries. Nearly half of sewer line backups are caused by FOG, and the cost to find a blockage and remove it on a 40-foot sewer line could average \$2,500.

The problems don't stop there, as the Township's Brush Creek Water Treatment Plant must remove the FOG from wastewater before it can be further treated.

Be sure to thoroughly scrape plates into the garbage and avoid using garbage disposals that add solids to the wastewater system. Grease should never be dumped down the sink. Instead, it should be disposed of properly

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