



What not to flush

Pre moistened wipes	Medications or supplements
Bandages or dressings	Cleaners or disinfectants
Cotton balls or swabs	Cigarette butts
Catheters	Dental floss
Wrappers	Diapers
Feminine hygiene products	Hair
Facial Tissues	Paper towels
Test strips	Hypodermic needles
Topical solutions	Dust, dirt or lint

What You Flush Matters



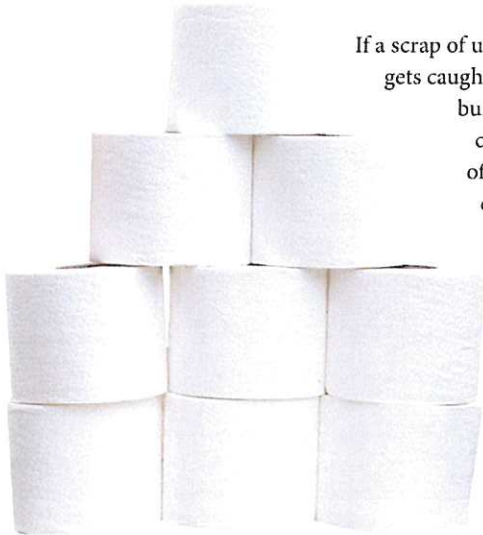
ways to keep your home, workplace and the environment healthy

Flush only human waste and toilet paper.

Even if they're small, even if the package says "flushable," some everyday items can cause messy and expensive problems for the plumbing in your home or health care facility.

These items can also get caught in the machinery of your local sewer treatment plant.

Products that might seem safe to flush down the toilet, such as **personal care wipes, dental floss and paper towels**, don't dissolve well - or at all - in water.



If a scrap of undissolved material gets caught on a nick, bend or bump within a pipe, it can trigger a growth of buildup that could cause a sewer backup in your home, workplace or neighborhood.

Check the back of this flyer for a list of more items that should never be flushed.

It's a toilet, not a trash can!

Flushing meds and chemicals can harm aquatic life.

Everyday chemicals from medications, supplements, disinfectants and household cleansers can travel from homes and health care facilities through sewers and wastewater treatment plants.

These chemicals cause harm to the marine environment and aquatic life when they are discharged to streams, rivers, and oceans.

Medications and supplements should not be flushed or disposed of through the toilet or drain. They should be wrapped and thrown in the trash, brought to your local drug take-back site, or disposed of in accordance with your health care facility's guidelines.

Unwanted household cleansers, topical solutions and disinfectants can also harm the marine environment and should not be poured down the toilet or drain. You should use them up, bring them to your local household hazardous waste site, or follow your health care facility's disposal guidelines.



Proper disposal protects your health and the environment.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE CHART*

The following chart from the Water Environment Federation will show you effective ways to dispose of household waste and contribute to a sustainable clean environment.

Blue waves ≈ indicate products which can be poured down the drain with plenty of water. If you have a septic tank, additional caution should be exercised when dumping these items down the drain. In fact, because septic systems rely on healthy bacteria, there are certain chemical substances that cannot be used with them. Be sure to read the labels to determine if a product could damage septic systems.

Yellow triangles ▼ indicate materials which should not be poured down the drain, but can be safely disposed of in a sanitary landfill or incinerator. Note that medicines can often be taken to a community drug take-back program or mixed with undesirable substances such as kitty litter or coffee grounds. Pills (except narcotics) can also be dissolved and mixed with regular trash. Be sure the material is properly contained before it is put out for collection or carried to the landfill. The red octagons ⊗ indicate hazardous wastes or materials that should be saved for a community-wide collection day or given to a licensed hazardous waste contractor when left over or unused. (Even the empty containers should be taken to a licensed contractor if one is available.)

Green leaves ♻ indicate material that can be recycled or reused or shared with neighbors or family members. If there is a recycling program in your area, take the materials there. If not, encourage local officials to start a recycling program.

*The information contained in this chart is intended as a general guideline. Laws and regulations may vary from state to state. For more information on the safest way to dispose of these and other products, contact your area's solid and hazardous waste department or federal or state environmental agency. Check manufacturer's label for specific disposal guidelines.

KITCHEN	TYPE OF WASTE DISPOSAL			
Aluminum cleaners		▼		
Ammonia-based cleaners	≈			
Bug sprays			⊗	
Drain cleaners			⊗	
Egg shells		▼		
Floor care products			⊗	
Furniture polish			⊗	
Metal polish with solvent			⊗	
Window cleaner		▼		
Oven cleaner (lye base)			⊗	
Fats, oils and grease (including oil from turkey fryers)		▼		
BATHROOM	TYPE OF WASTE DISPOSAL			
Bathroom cleaners		▼		
Diapers (baby wipes)		▼		
Disinfectants		▼		
Toilet bowl cleaner		▼		
Tub and tile cleaners			⊗	
Pharmaceutical products or drugs (expired or used)		▼		
Personal care products (aftershave, perfumes, depilatories, permanent or other lotions, hair relaxers, nail polish, dyes, waxes)		▼		
Sharps (needles for diabetics)			⊗	
GARDEN	TYPE OF WASTE DISPOSAL			
Fertilizer			⊗	
Fungicide			⊗	
Herbicide			⊗	
Insecticide			⊗	
Rat poison			⊗	
Weed killer			⊗	

GARAGE	TYPE OF WASTE DISPOSAL			
Antifreeze			⊗	♻
Automatic transmission fluid			⊗	♻
Auto body repair products			⊗	
Battery acid (or battery)			⊗	♻
Brake fluid			⊗	
Car wax with solvent			⊗	
Diesel fuel			⊗	♻
Fuel additives			⊗	
Fuel oil			⊗	♻
Gasoline			⊗	♻
Kerosene			⊗	♻
Metal polish with solvent			⊗	
Motor oil			⊗	♻
Other oils			⊗	
WORKSHOP	TYPE OF WASTE DISPOSAL			
Cutting oil			⊗	
Deck cleaners/stains			⊗	
Glue (solvent based)			⊗	
Glue (water based)	≈			
Paint (latex)		▼		♻
Paint (oil based)			⊗	
Paint (auto)			⊗	
Paint (model)			⊗	
Paint brush cleaner with solvent			⊗	♻
Paint brush cleaner with TSP	≈			
Paint stripper			⊗	
Paint stripper (lye base)			⊗	
Paint thinner			⊗	♻
Primer			⊗	
Rust remover (with phosphoric acid)			⊗	

WORKSHOP, Cont.	TYPE OF WASTE DISPOSAL			
Turpentine			⊗	♻
Varnish			⊗	
Wood preservative			⊗	
MISCELLANEOUS	TYPE OF WASTE DISPOSAL			
Aerosol cans (empty)		▼		♻
Aerosol cans (not empty)			⊗	
Ammunition			⊗	
Artists' paints (acrylic)		▼		♻
Artists' paints (oil based)			⊗	
Cat litter		▼		
Cellular phones			⊗	♻
Dry cleaning solvents			⊗	♻
Fiberglass epoxy			⊗	
Gun cleaning solvents			⊗	♻
Lighter fluid			⊗	
Mercury batteries			⊗	♻
Moth balls			⊗	
Old fire alarms			⊗	
Fluorescent light bulbs			⊗	
Pet care products (flea and tick repellent)		▼		
Photographic chemicals			⊗	
Shoe polish			⊗	
Swimming pool chemicals			⊗	
White-out (used for corrections)		▼		

- ≈ - Can be poured down the drain with plenty of water.
- ▼ - Cannot be poured down the drain, but can be safely disposed of in a sanitary landfill or incinerator.
- ⊗ - Hazardous wastes.
- ♻ - Recycle, reuse, or share.