

What to Flush and What Not to Flush

Cleaning and disinfecting wipes, personal hygiene products, baby wipes—they all are “disposable,” so why not flush them down the toilet?

Quite simply, because disposing of such items in the toilet—even those labeled “flushable”—instead of in the trash causes big problems, both for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and for homeowners.

Mounds of disposable materials clog sewer lines, pumps, and lift stations. They can cause sewer backups and damage plant equipment. Clearing such materials from the wastewater stream is time-consuming and labor-intensive. Even dental floss flushed down the toilet can cause problems. Dental floss is very strong and durable. It can get tangled up in pumps and equipment, or worsen minor clogs within pipes by “binding” materials together.

These items are also a big problem for property owners’ home plumbing and sewer laterals, which are smaller in diameter and more susceptible to clogs. The sewer system is not designed for disposable wipes, dental floss, or similar items. Sewer clogs caused by these items can result in considerable cleanup expense and potential harm to our environment.

Please don’t use your toilet as a trash can! Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down your toilet. Put everything else in the trash, where it belongs.