

What Not to Flush



COVID-19: Latex gloves, paper towel and wipes are not flushable

Improper flushing can clog and damage a community's septic and sewer systems

With toilet paper in low supply and cleaning in high gear, your local utility officials are reminding the public that paper towels, disinfectant wipes (even the 'flushable' kind) and latex gloves pose a significant risk to City sanitary collection systems.

“With individuals and families doing their part by staying home, our systems are seeing heavier than normal use,” said Josef Grusauskas, Utilities and Plant Operations Director for the City of Mount Dora. “We need to be mindful of how we're treating the City's utility assets.”

The only things that should be going into the sanitary system are human waste and toilet paper. Improper materials flushed can lead to clogs, blockages and wastewater equipment damage – all of which can backup a home system and clog sewer systems.

Reminder: Flushing any type of wipe, including disinfecting wipes and wipes marked as "flushable" causes clogging in home and at City sanitary sewage pump stations and may result in sewer backups. Please dispose of wipes in your garbage. Sewage clog or blockage can result in raw sewage overflows into our local lakes. It could even require you to have to leave



your home – an especially complicated scenario in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wipes and other solids can mix with fats, oils and grease in the wastewater to form large clogs. These clogs cause lift stations to fail, pumps to burn up and even roads to be torn up to remove clogs from pipes. These rules also apply to home septic systems.

You can help to prevent clogs in the wastewater system by avoiding flushing any of the items described below.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many items that are labeled “flushable” or “disposable” are actually not safe to flush.

Top Things to Not Flush or Put Down the Drain

Baby Wipes

Latex Gloves and Disposable Masks

Fats, Oils, and Grease

Food/Trash/Non-Biodegradables

Cleaning Products

Pads/Rags/Cloth/Chemicals/Disposable Gloves

Cotton Balls/Q-tips/Dental Floss

Disposable Diapers

Feminine Products (including applicators)

Medications/Pharmaceuticals/Syringes/Needles

Paper Towels/Tissues/Plastic Bags

Baby Wipes

When you flush a baby wipe down the toilet, you are creating a situation that could clog your pipes and your sewer system. These wipes do not dissolve like toilet paper. They hang around in pipes and in the sewer system, often with horrid results. They often combine with grease in the

system to form a hard residue that could cause a serious backup. Even though the packaging on some wipes now says they are manufactured with “safe flush technology,” we recommend you keep them out of your toilet entirely and dispose of them in the trash.

PREVENT PLUMBING BACKUPS:

Blocked drains at homes and businesses are usually caused by wipes, sanitary products, paper towels, fats, oils or grease.

Fats, Oils and Grease

Cooking fat, oil and grease (FOG) can clog the pipes at your home and in our system and cause sewage to back up into your home, yard, street and waterways. Not only will you have to pay a plumber to fix things, Mount Dora will have to pay for these cleanups, too, which can lead to higher utility bills.

