

The Unflushables

After flushing wet wipes, they exit a house through a pipe that connects to a public sewer system, where sewage pumps ensure that the wastewater flows in the correct direction. However, unlike toilet paper, wet wipes and other products fail to disintegrate. They clog the pumps, causing them to break down and redirect wastewater back toward

Most people understand that not all bathroom and disposable sanitary products are designed to be flushed, yet a startling amount of non-flushable wipes a numerous other products are flushed down toilets every day. Wet wipes are made with plastic fibers that cause the sheet to float. Unlike toilet paper, they do not break down in wastewater systems. Yet, disposing of wet wipes, facial tissues and dental floss remains commonplace. This has contributed to cities and municipalities dealing with clogged sewer systems, and has caused dangerous and costly sanitary sewer overflows.

If you **have** been flushing wipes, diapers, tampons, or kitty litter down your toilet, your drains and sewer line could be in trouble. Watch out for signs that the system is backing up or clogging.

Warning signs include:

- Strange gurgling noises in the drains.
- Slow drains throughout the house, but especially in the lowest level drains.
- Wastewater backing up into the home.

Some items NOT to flush down the toilet:



- Baby wipes & diapers
- Latex gloves
- Dryer sheets
- Facial tissue
- Rags and towels
- Cigarette & cigar butts
- Feminine hygiene products
- Underwear and socks
- Kitty litter or Aquarium gravel
- Anti-bacterial wipes and sponges**
- Dental Floss
- Cotton balls/swabs
- Fats, Oil and Grease
- Food wrappers & chewing gum
- Clothing labels & tags
- Medicine (*There is a drop-off box at city hall)
- Paint, stains, and other hazardous waste