

What **NOT** to Flush Down the Toilet

Pine Island Public Works needs your help in prolonging the life of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Please read the following list of items not to flush down the toilet.

1. **Feminine Products**

Tampons and other feminine hygiene products are not supposed to be flushed down the toilet.

2. **Cooking Grease/Food**

Grease should never be poured down any drain, period. It may look like a liquid that can easily be dumped down a drain, but when it cools, it will congeal and clog up your pipes.

3. **Baby Wipes/Wet Wipes/ Cleaning Pads**

These “adult baby wipes” are becoming increasingly popular nowadays. They are also increasingly causing clogs and backups in sewage pipes across the country. Although some of these brands might say they are flushable on the box, there are groups that are revising the guidelines, so soon all wet wipes will have a noticeable DO NOT FLUSH symbol on the packaging.

4. **Dental Floss**

Floss is not biodegradable and can cause serious clogs and environmental damage.

5. **Q-tips/Cotton Balls**

You might think that cotton will break down, since some toilet paper is made from cotton linen, but they don't! They will clump together, causing stoppages at bends in the pipes.

6. **Diapers**

Just because there is human waste inside does not mean that they are OK to flush. Diapers are made to expand in water. In the unlikely case you actually get the diaper to flush, it will likely get caught in the U-bend of the pipe.

7. **Pills**

You may think it is a good idea to put pills out of harm's way, but you are probably doing more harm than good by flushing them. They have toxic effects on groundwater supplies and wildlife.

8. **Paper Towels/Tissues**

Tissues and Paper towels are not made to dissolve like toilet paper; throw them in the trash.

9. **Cigarette Butts**

Cigarettes are full of toxic chemicals that end up going straight into the groundwater supply.

What does that leave? Not much! Human excrement and regular toilet paper are the **ONLY** things you should flush down your toilet.