

Why are you flushing that down the toilet?



Toilets are not trash compactors. They don't "swallow" whatever you flush down them. Seemingly harmless items make their way into the toilet and cause problems. Randomly flushing objects can have costly implications for your pipes, far beyond a clogged toilet. The pumps in a Metro District lift station recently failed due to inappropriate flushed items being entangled in them. The lift station required a total rebuild! Please help the Metro District and your neighbors by respecting the infrastructure that provides your home with both water delivery and sewer removal.

To help us save your pipes, and your wallet, here are some things you should never flush down your toilet:

- **Flushable or baby wipes.** "Flushable" and baby wipes can be incorrectly labeled and not all disintegrate in water as quickly as toilet paper does. They can lodge in sewer pipes and clog the toilet.
- **Cleaning rags.** Please ask your housecleaners to dispose of these in the trash. The lift station was FULL of these types of rags.
- **Dental floss.** Tossing dental floss in the toilet seems harmless, but floss is not usually biodegradable and will bunch up in your pipes, causing clogs.
- **Hair.** Brushing your long, beautiful mane or trimming your beard over the toilet can form clogs in your pipes over time and trap odors. Always clean brushes over a trash can. This also applies to pet hair and fur.
- **Feminine hygiene products/diapers/paper towels.** Think about it. These are made to absorb water, not break apart in it. Dispose of all of these items in the trash.
- **Condoms.** Condoms will clog your toilet and should be disposed of in the trash, especially because most are not biodegradable.
- **Clothing items.** Clothing items should make their way to the hamper for cleaning, not the lift station where they become tangled in the pumps!
- **Cat litter.** Cat litter is made to clump when it comes into contact with moisture. If you put it in your toilet, it will clump up in your toilet or in the pipes. So from now on, bag up your litter — poop and all — and dispose of it in the garbage.
- **Cotton swabs and cotton balls.** They seem so small and innocent, but they gather in pipes and cause frustrating clogs.
- **Food and grease.** The lift station pump had over a foot of solid grease encasing it! Yuck!
- **Fish/small pets.** There's no way they're going to disintegrate in the toilet water and there's a good chance they'll create a clog.
- **Cigarette butts.** Despite their small size, cigarette butts are not easily flushable. Toilets were made for your butt, not cigarette butts.