

# TO FLUSH OR **NOT TO FLUSH?**

Whether you call it the toilet, the john, the commode, or the porcelain throne, we all know what it's used for. And it really shouldn't be used for anything else. Unfortunately, many people are guilty of occasionally flushing something inappropriate down the toilet. At the time it doesn't seem like a big deal – until it becomes a major plumbing problem.

**Here's a cheat sheet of 10 things, you should NEVER flush down the toilet**

## **1. HAIR**

It clogs showers, sinks and toilets by forming into giant clumps and creating massive blockages in pipes, plumbing and sewers.

## **2. DENTAL FLOSS**

It's not biodegradable and similar to hair, eventually tangles together into clumps and clogs pipes.

## **3. FATS, OIL & GREASE**

They may go in as liquid but they cool, harden, and build up on the sides of your pipes making the opening smaller and smaller.

## **4. BAND AIDS**

They are not biodegradable, even the felt ones, so they belong in the trash.

## **5. PAPER TOWELS**

The only type of paper that should be flushed down the toilet is toilet paper.

## **6. MEDICATION\***

The water in your toilet is water that ends up in our rivers, lakes and oceans. Old, expired and unused medications will contaminate the water.

\*For information on how to properly dispose of medication contact your sheriff's department.

## **7. DISPOSABLE WIPES**

While they may be called disposable they are NOT flushable, even the ones that claim you can flush them. They cause chaos in sewer and septic systems.

## **8. CONTRACEPTIVES AND PROPHYLACTICS**

Also not biodegradable. They will clog pipes and drains so throw them in the trash.

## **9. KITTY LITTER**

Dispose of kitty litter in the trash. The litter will clump and harden if poured down the drain.

## **10. FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

They are notorious for clogging pipes, pumps and drains.

None of these items should ever be poured down a drain, dumped into a storm sewer, or a sanitary sewer. You can help protect the environment, wastewater treatment equipment, and the people who operate our treatment facilities by doing your part to dispose of your waste properly. And remember to reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible!

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THE TOILET**

For more information contact:

**Martin County Utilities  
& Solid Waste Department**  
2378 S.E. Ocean Blvd  
Stuart, FL  
772.221.1434  
[www.martin.fl.us](http://www.martin.fl.us)

