

"Flushable" wipes are a misnomer and should not be flushed because they are not designed to break down quickly like toilet paper and instead cause clogs in pipes, damage wastewater equipment, and increase utility costs for consumers and municipalities. While some wipes are made with biodegradable materials, they do not meet the rapid disintegration standards of toilet paper and are often composed of durable, non-woven synthetic fibers that create "fatbergs" and blockages in the sewer system. Therefore, wastewater and plumbing professionals advise that only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed.

Why "flushable" wipes cause problems:

- **Don't break down easily:**

Unlike toilet paper, which is designed to dissolve in water, "flushable" wipes are made from more fibrous, cloth-like materials that take a long time to break down, or may not break down at all.

- **Create blockages:**

As they travel through sewer pipes, these wipes snag on any imperfections, catch debris, and form large clumps that create blockages and "fatbergs".

- **Strain infrastructure:**

Wipes put stress on both residential and municipal sewer systems, leading to damaged pumps, clogged pipes, and costly repairs.

- **Increase costs:**

The costs associated with clearing these blockages and repairing infrastructure are ultimately passed on to consumers through higher utility rates and taxes.

The "flushable" label is misleading:

- **Lack of standards:**

There are no regulatory standards for what can be labeled as "flushable" in the U.S., leading to confusing labels and a lack of third-party verification for product claims.

- **Testing and claims:**

While companies may perform physical tests, these don't accurately reflect how wipes will behave in real sewer systems.

- **Consumer confusion:**

The term "flushable" leads consumers to believe the wipes are safe to flush, but plumbers and water utility professionals strongly advise against it.

What to do instead:

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- **Dispose of wipes in the trash:**

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For your safety, the environment, and the functionality of the sewer system, all wipes should be disposed of in a garbage can.