

Flushable Doesn't Mean Flush It

Help us keep the Wastewater Treatment System Operations Flowing

The City of Florence understands just how crucial it is to maintain our water supply and wastewater systems efficiently. Our utility services play a vital role in transporting waste from our homes to our treatment plant located on Rhododendron Drive. These services are responsible for the collection and treatment of wastewater, employing advanced equipment and pumps to ensure everything runs smoothly. However, over time, these systems can become worn down or damaged, especially when foreign objects inadvertently enter the mix. This underscores the necessity for everyone to be vigilant about what they flush down the toilet.


The rise in popularity of “flushable” cleaning and hygiene products has exacerbated the problem, leading to an increase of clogs in our pipes and pump stations. When individuals flush these so-called “flushable” items, it places immense pressure on our wastewater teams and maintenance crews, complicating their already challenging work.

The staff at Florence’s Wastewater Treatment Plant often encounter an array of bizarre items during routine maintenance, everything from flushable wipes, grease, cornstarch, eggshells, flushable wipes, packing peanuts, children’s toys, flushable wipes, blue jeans, underwear, t shirts, flushable wipes, feminine hygiene products, plastic bags, and flushable wipes. Wastewater Treatment staff even say they find money from time to time.

The rise in popularity of “flushable” products has caused widespread issue and has led to sewer systems across the nation facing severe clogging problems. Once these “flushable” products enter the sanitary sewer lines they can clump together with hair and grease, forming stubborn blockages. In response, wastewater agencies are diligently working to raise awareness about the detrimental effects these products can have on our infrastructure. The financial implications of repairing sewer lines and pump stations can be substantial.

Therefore, it’s essential to remember the two golden rules of waste disposal: the only items that should ever go down the toilet are toilet paper and what comes out of you and just because it says flushable does not mean it belongs in our sewer lines. By adhering to this simple guideline, we can all play a part in safeguarding our water supply and wastewater management systems, ensuring they function effectively for years to come. Together, let's spread the word and protect our community's vital infrastructure.

What Not to Flush (or put down the garbage disposal or drain)

Personal Care Products	Medical Supplies	Household Trash
Baby wipes	Hypodermic needles	Cat litter
Bandages and wrappers	Medications	Chemicals and solvents
Condoms and wrappers	Vitamins	Cigarette butts
Cotton balls and swabs	Supplements	Coffee grounds
Dental floss		Disposable mop and duster heads
Diapers		Fruit stickers
Facial tissue		Fat, cooking oil, grease
Feminine hygiene products		Paint
Moist bathroom wipes		Paper towels