

The Flow

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Please Don't Flush ...

1. Cotton Balls/Q-Tips

You may think that cotton is flushable since a lot of toilet paper is made from cotton linen (Cottonelle/Cottonsoft), but it isn't! Cotton balls, Q-tips, and cotton rounds will clump together in your pipes and cause a clog.

2. Paper Towels

Paper towels are tough and not made to dissolve in water. Some are even strong enough to hold a bowling ball, if you remember the commercial. Even the biodegradable kinds are not meant to be flushed, so throw all paper towels in the trash, not the toilet.

3. Dental Floss

No dental floss is meant to dissolve in water, so it will end up getting stuck and tangled in pipes and sewage systems, snagging other things like fats, oils, paper towels, wipes, and other material. Any other stringy material has the same propensity to cause clogs. Continue to floss, just put it in the trash when you're done.

4. Band-Aids

Band-Aids contain plastic which is not biodegradable. Throw these in the trash, where they belong.

5. Diapers

Diapers are thick and can expand and cause pipe clogs, usually in the U-bend. Even the biodegradable kinds will tell you not to flush them. Do the responsible thing and throw the diapers and wet wipes in the trash.

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ALL SWSC staff work hard for the customer. Please say "thank you" the next time that you see them on the street, in your neighborhood, or at the drive thru window. They will appreciate it.

Employee Spotlight

Jonathan Hagan has been employed with SWSC since 2018. He is a 2007 graduate of Washington County High School. A lifelong resident of Washington County, he and his wife Sabrina own and operate a local cattle farm along with their 2 children Maddison and Jasper. Jonathan started as general labor with SWSC and is now the Wastewater Collections Foreman. In his spare time, he enjoys tending to the farm, camping, and family time.

Please Don't Flush ...

6. Facial Tissue: Like paper towels, tissues are made to be much stronger than toilet paper. Toilet paper is a specially designed product made of shortened fibers to speed up the process of disintegration. Try washing your hands with toilet paper compared with tissues or paper towels and you'll recognize the difference.

7. Flushable Wipes: Flushable wipes cause the biggest trouble for toilets and septic systems since so many people use them and think that they are "flushable." As a result, there have been public awareness campaigns, lawsuits, and countless stories of the problems they cause for sewage treatment centers. Brands are now being forced to remove the "flushable" and "disposable" labels and warn consumers not to flush them. We understand their appeal, but just like tissues and paper towels, remember to throw these in the trash.

8. Pills: Any drugs, including pills, should never be flushed down the toilet. This isn't so much a clog concern, but rather an environmental one. Sewage systems have complicated biological processes to break down waste and medications can interfere with that. Most medications cannot be removed from the water, so they end up in our lakes, oceans, rivers, and ponds.

9. Cat Litter: You may think that it would be healthier and more environmentally friendly to dispose of cat waste and litter in your toilet, but this isn't the case. Although some litter brands may market themselves as flushable, others can expand to 15 times their normal size and clog your pipes. Additionally, cat feces contain a parasite called *Toxoplasma gondii*, which cannot be broken down by sewage systems and can enter the oceans and cause harm to wildlife. This goes for all pet excrement. Although there is no perfect way of getting rid of litter, we recommend scooping it into biodegradable baggies and throwing them in the trash.

10. Feminine Products: Most public restrooms have signs and little disposal bins to encourage women to throw away, not flush, their feminine products. Like the other cotton items on our list, tampons will expand and cause clogs. Just don't do it, ladies.



NEW Drop Box

A new payment drop box has been installed in the right lane near the drive-thru window. Please consider using this the next time that you drop off payment.

