

Should you flush it or not?



Everything that you put down your toilets and household drains ends up in our sewer system.

When wipes, grease and other items are flushed or disposed down your drains, they can damage the sewer, collection and treatment systems, cause sewer backups in your home, and result in sewer overflows to the environment. This could mean expensive repairs for you and other taxpayers. Remember, the only items that you should be flushing are human waste and toilet paper.

What Not To Flush (or put down your household drains)

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

In 2014, the CRD spent approximately \$30,000 on preventive maintenance and \$5,000 responding to emergency call outs associated with materials noted above disposed of in the Magic Lake Estates sewer system.

It's a Toilet, Not a Trash Can!

Even if they're small, even if the package says "flushable," some everyday items can cause messy and expensive problems for your plumbing and our sewer treatment facilities.

Products that might seem safe to flush down the toilet, such as personal care wipes, dental floss and paper towels, don't dissolve quickly – or at all – in water. If a scrap of undissolved material gets caught on a nick, bend or bump within a pipe, it can trigger a growth of buildup that could cause a sewer backup in your home or neighborhood. Back ups in sewer mains drive up operating costs, which cost you, the ratepayer, money.

Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG)

Fats, cooking oils and grease are not water-soluble. They coat household pipes and public sewer mains, causing nasty clogs. The CRD estimates that almost 1,000,000 kg of fats, oils and grease from residential sources enter the CRD wastewater systems annually. This represents 60% of all FOG entering the system. To dispose of household fats, oils and grease, carefully pour them into an empty container and then dispose of it. For more information please visit www.crd.bc.ca/fats.

A Healthy Environment Starts at Home - Household Hazardous Waste

Some household items shouldn't be flushed even though they do break down in water. Dissolved chemicals can travel through the sewer system, interrupt the biological treatment process and pollute the marine environment.

Medications and supplements should not be flushed or disposed of down the drain. They should be wrapped and thrown in the trash, or brought to a local drug take-back site. For more information please visit www.crd.bc.ca/medications.

Unwanted solvents and other chemicals used around the home, like paint, cleaners and nail polish remover, should not be flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain. You should use them up or bring them to your local household hazardous waste disposal site. For more information about disposing of household hazardous waste and ideas for safer alternatives, please visit www.crd.bc.ca/cleangreen.

The logo for the Capital Regional District (CRD), consisting of the letters 'CRD' in a white, bold, sans-serif font on a teal background.