

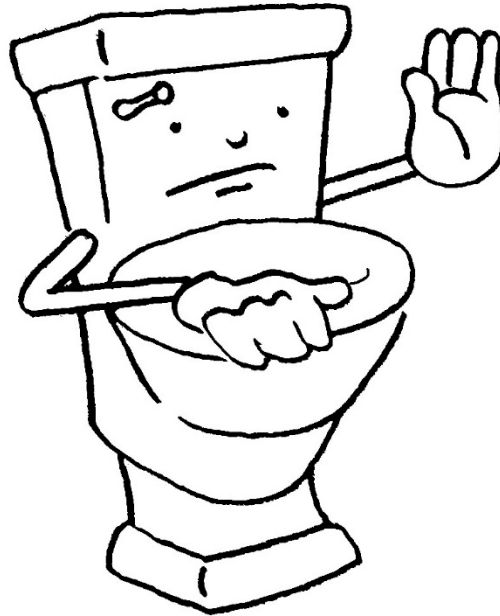
## What are the Effects of Flushing Unwanted Medications and Chemicals?

Everyday chemicals from medications, supplements, disinfectants and household cleansers can travel from homes and health care facilities through sewers and wastewater treatment plants.

These chemicals cause harm to the marine environment and aquatic life when they are discharged to streams, rivers and oceans.

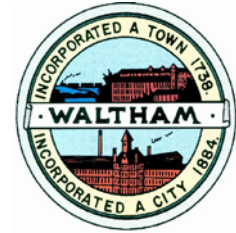
Medications and Supplements should not be flushed or disposed of through the toilet or drain. They should be wrapped and thrown in the trash, brought to a local drug take-back site or disposed of in accordance to your facility's guidelines. For further information, contact The FDA's website: [www.fda.gov/ForConsumers](http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers)

Unwanted Household Cleaners and Chemicals can also harm the marine environment and should not be poured down the toilet or drain. These can be brought to the local hazardous waste site. Contact the City of Waltham Recycling Department for additional information at (781) 314-3390 or [www.city.waltham.ma.us/recycling-department](http://www.city.waltham.ma.us/recycling-department)



For more information, please contact

The City of Waltham  
Water-Sewer Division  
165 Lexington Street  
Waltham MA 02452  
(781) 314 3820



## What You Flush Matters

Ways to Keep Your Home,  
Workplace and the Environment  
Healthy



City of Waltham  
Water-Sewer Division  
(781) 314 3820

## What You Flush Matters – Product Labels can be misleading. Some Items that CLAIM to be flushable can clog sewers and plumbing systems in your home or work environment.

**FLUSH ONLY HUMAN WASTE AND TOILET PAPER.** Even if an item is small, or if the package says “flushable”, some everyday items can cause messy and expensive problems for the plumbing in your home or building. These items can also cause blockages or overflows in the Sewer infrastructure of the City. Products that may seem safe to flush down the toilet, such as personal care wipes, dental floss and paper towels do not dissolve well, if at all, in water.

Scraps of undissolved materials can get caught in a nick, bend or bump within a waste pipe. If this happens, it could trigger a buildup which may cause a sewer backup in your home, workplace or neighborhood.

**REMEMBER – IT’S A TOILET, NOT A TRASH CAN!**



### WHAT NOT TO FLUSH:

Pre-Moistened Wipes	Bandages/Dressings
Cotton Balls/Swabs	Condoms
Wrappers	Cigarettes/Butts
Hair	Facial Tissues
Test Strips	Topical Solutions
Dental Floss	Paper Towels
Dust, Dirt or Lint	Diapers
Hypodermic Needles	Rubber Items
Cat Litter	Plastic Items
Feminine Products	Catheters
Unwanted Medications and Chemicals	

“Disposable” is not the same as “Flushable”. Only Human Waste and Toilet Paper are Flushable.

Blocked sewer lines can result in:

- Raw Sewage overflows into private homes and businesses
- Expensive and extensive cleanups that often are the burden of the property or home owner to pay for
- Raw Sewage overflows into public areas such as city streets, parks and waterways
- Potential contact with disease carrying pathogens
- Higher operations and maintenance costs for the city’s water – sewer department which can then drive up the cost of customers’ utility bills.

