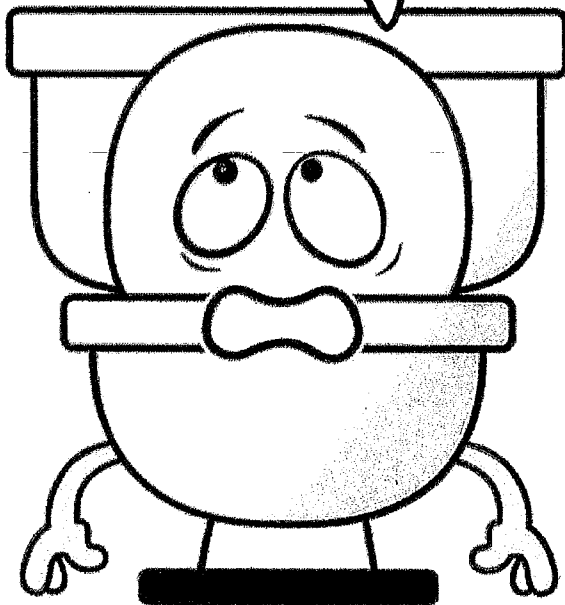


A Community Service Message
from the Nisqually Public Works Department

SAVE OUR SEWER SYSTEM!

NO WIPES in the PIPES

Only flush
the three Ps...
Pee, Poop and
toilet Paper!



No matter what the package says,

DO NOT FLUSH THESE PRODUCTS:

- "Flushable" wipes
- Disinfecting and cleaning wipes
- Sanitary products
- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Cardboard and paper products
- Fabrics

What should be flushed down the toilet? Only toilet paper and, well, you know.

What shouldn't? Those new, so-called flushable personal wipes, say a growing number of city sewer managers, who are dealing with humongous clumps of these wipes clogging up pipes and sewers across the country.

Unlike toilet paper, which quickly breaks down in water, these other products - despite their claims of being "septic safe" and "breaking down like toilet paper" - tend to stay intact, gumming up sewer systems and causing overflows into streams or basements from jammed pipes and broken pumps.

The moist, cleansing wipes - sort of an adult version of baby wipes, which also aren't flushable - are just part of the problem. Other products, including pop-off scrubbers on toilet-cleaning wands, are increasingly being marketed as "flushable."

"Just because you can flush it doesn't mean you should. The package may say "Flushable", but in reality, they aren't.

- Tony Berkson, Nisqually Public Works Director.

And the problem is not just here. This summer, a 15-ton bus-size glob of wipes and hardened cooking grease - nicknamed a "fatberg" by the Brits - was discovered in a London sewer pipe after residents complained of toilets that would not flush.

When *Consumer Reports*, however, tested several brands of wipes labeled flushable, they found that while toilet paper disintegrated after only eight seconds, the wipes still hadn't broken down after 30 minutes.

Wipes manufacturers and an industry trade association are working on better flushability testing standards and a more prominent "Do not flush" logo on other products.

In the meantime, when it comes to flushing, just stick with what we call the three P's: pee, poop and (toilet) paper.