



# What not to flush

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pre moistened wipes       | Medications or supplements |
| Bandages or dressings     | Cleaners or disinfectants  |
| Cotton balls or swabs     | Cigarette butts            |
| Catheters                 | Dental floss               |
| Wrappers                  | Diapers                    |
| Feminine hygiene products | Hair                       |
| Facial Tissues            | Paper towels               |
| Test strips               | Hypodermic needles         |
| Topical solutions         | Dust, dirt or lint         |

# What You Flush Matters



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

[www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com)

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ways to keep your home, workplace and the environment healthy

## Flush only human waste and toilet paper.

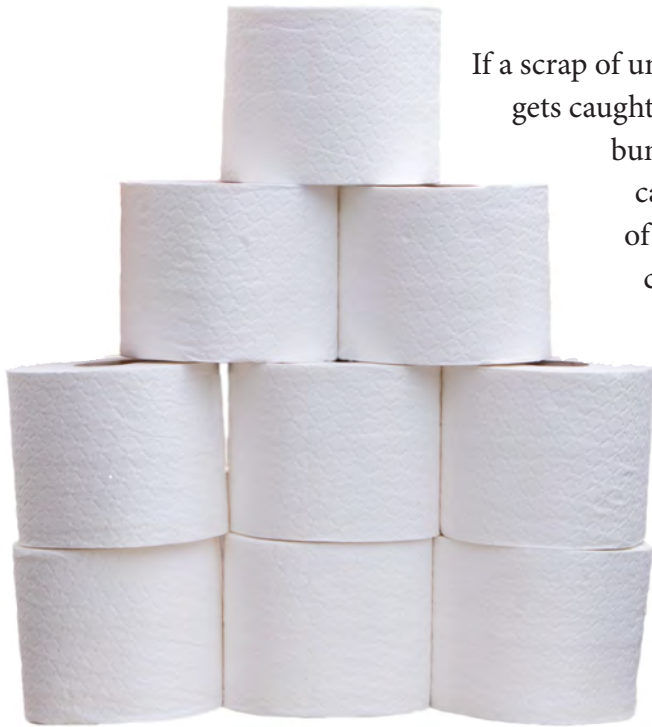
Even if they're small, even if the package says "flushable," some everyday items can cause messy and expensive problems for the plumbing in your home or health care facility.

These items can also get caught in the machinery of your local sewer treatment plant.

Products that might seem safe to flush down the toilet, such as **personal care wipes, dental floss and paper towels**, don't dissolve well - 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 back-up in your home, workplace or neighborhood.

Check the back of this flyer for a list of more items that should never be flushed.



**It's a toilet, not a trash can!**

## Flushing meds and chemicals can harm aquatic life.

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 your local drug take-back site, or disposed of in accordance with your health care facility's guidelines.

**Unwanted household cleansers, topical solutions and disinfectants** can also harm the marine environment and should not be poured down the toilet or drain. You should use them up, bring them to your local household hazardous waste site, or follow your health care facility's disposal guidelines.



**Proper disposal protects your health and the environment.**