

CITY OF UNION GAP Public Works - Wastewater Division

There is some confusion of what the “**Do Not Flush**” list looks like? It's much easier to tell you **what you should flush** than what you shouldn't flush, because really *the only things you should ever flush down the toilet are: Toilet Paper, Urine and Fecal Matter.*

Unfortunately, people often think it is okay to flush the following - all of which belong on the “**Do Not Flush**” list:

- Kleenex and other facial tissues
- Baby wipes / personal hygiene wipes
- Facial cleansing wipes / make up removers
- Paper towels or napkins
- Feminine products (sanitary napkins, pads of all sorts, and tampons)
- Diapers
- Rags
- Sticks
- Mop heads
- Q-tips and other make up applicators
- Kitty litter
- Cigarette butts
- Oil, grease, or food scraps
- Prescription drugs
- Household Hazardous Waste

Why Are These Items On the “Do Not Flush” List? Unfortunately, items listed above are commonly flushed down toilets, but they are the prime causes of clogged toilets. People think facial tissues, feminine products and other disposable wipes can go down the toilet, but they are made with fibrous material that does not break down quickly or completely enough to make it through your pipes and out into the sewer system without causing clogs. Small items like q-tips and mascara applicators do not break down at all and are likely to get wedged in the pipes, and material that normally would pass through the pipes gets caught up in them.

Kitty litter is known to get stuck in the bellies of pipes, and food scraps are also likely to settle or get caught on any stray items that may have been accidentally flushed over the years. Oil and grease will coat your pipes like plaque, and other items that are flushed may stick to and add layers to the gunk coating the inside of your pipes; over time, clogs form.

Why Can't I Flush Prescription Drugs? It may seem like a safe and easy way to dispose of expired prescriptions, but prescription drugs should not be flushed for a completely different reason than everything else on this list. While waste water is treated, prescription drugs add chemicals to the water that are not removed during the waste water treatment process. Prescription drugs can be taken to the Yakima County Sheriff's Department or the pharmacy that filled the prescription for disposal.

If you have any questions, please call Public Works & Community Development Department at 509.225.3524.