

Are Flushable Wipes Actually Safe for Your Sewer Lines?

Flushable wipes are a familiar item in many households across the United States as they pose to be a great alternative to toilet paper. Manufacturers print right on the package “flushable, septic-safe”, but are they *actually* safe for your sewer lines? Contrary to what’s advertised, plumbing and wastewater treatment experts suggest not flushing anything other than “you know what” and toilet paper down your toilet. When items such as thick toilet paper, wipes, and cleansing pads are flushed, they do not break down quickly as ordinary toilet paper and therefore can build up and clog lines, which is otherwise known as ragging.

Here is a list of common items which are mistakenly perceived as “flushable”, but actually raise the risk of backups to your sewer lines and more frequent pumping of septic tanks:

- Wipes, towelettes, facial tissue
- Paper towels, napkins, toilet scrub pads
- Diapers, sanitary pads, tampons, etc.
- Fats, oils, grease
- Coffee grounds, egg shells
- Hair
- Medications, vitamins, pharmaceuticals

If you are looking to maximize the longevity of your sewer lines, and reduce the risk of ragging, refrain from disposing of these commonly flushed items down your toilet and instead place them in your garbage can.

