



Look for the "Do Not Flush" symbol on packaging of disposable wipes sold in Washington



Some wipes may also have the Tidyman logo – they belong in the trash can, not the toilet!



If you see this sign, do not pour down the drain!

## "DO NOT FLUSH" LABELING IN EFFECT FOR MOST DISPOSABLE WIPES



Disposable wipes sold in Washington State now have labeling requirements. Check your products at home to see if they have the "Do Not Flush" symbol.

Washington is first state in the U.S. with a wipes labeling law, which took effect in July 2022 for most non-flushable disposable wipes. The law requires that non-flushable wipes be labeled with a clear "Do Not Flush" logo, and specifies the size, contrast, and placement of the logo on packaging.

The law states that creating labeling standards for disposable wipes products will protect public health, the environment, water quality, and public infrastructure used for the collection, transport, and treatment of wastewater. Wipes already approved for sale and labeled as "flushable" are not affected. The law does not address standards on flushability of these products.

You may see the "Do Not Flush" symbol on some wipes now, some with an optional "Tidyman" symbol showing to dispose of in the trash. However, some brands of cleaning wipes that are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have a longer timeframe to meet the requirements. Cities and counties have concurrent and exclusive authority to enforce this law and penalties.

Disposable wipes for baby care, hand washing, personal cleansing, makeup removal, and household cleaning are not flushable. If you regularly purchase wipes for your household, check the packaging for the "Do Not Flush" logo.

When in doubt, throw it out! Your Sewer Utility advises not to flush wipes of any kind, even those labeled as flushable.

## KNOW THE SIGNS!

Do Not Flush labeling requirements took effect for most non-flushable nonwoven disposable wipes sold in Washington on July 1, 2022. For certain products regulated by the EPA, the requirements take effect in July 2023.

Find more information on wipes disposal practices at [flushsmart.org](https://flushsmart.org).

## WIPES CLOG PIPES!

Just because you can flush it, and it is labeled as "flushable," should you? While manufacturers are improving their flushable products, we advise only flushing the 3 P's – Pee, Poop, and Toilet Paper. Even flushable wipes do not break down like toilet paper, and they can cause clogs in your pipes at home and in the sewer system.

Once wipes get caught in the system, they stick to other non-flushable items and form a mass of wipes, oil, and grease – known as a fatberg. This can potentially

create a sanitary sewer overflow, discharging harmful untreated sewage into the environment. Sewer crews must spend additional hours to unclog pipes and repair machinery, which increases maintenance costs.

These items may be labeled and marketed as “disposable” or even “flushable,” but should not go down the toilet:

- Baby wipes
- Mop refills
- Paper towels
- Disinfecting wipes
- Facial tissues
- Facial wipes
- Cotton swabs
- Towelettes

Don't let wipes and rags become a pain in the drain. Put them in the trash, not the toilet. The toilet is not a trashcan!



Rags and wipes get caught in the moving components of sewage pumps. They stick together into a single mass, sometimes several feet long.

## DON'T FLUSH UNWANTED MEDICINES

When you flush medicine down the toilet or throw it in the trash, it pollutes our water and soil. Wastewater treatment plants are generally not equipped to routinely remove medicines. Drugs poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet can pass through the treatment system and enter our waterways.

Kitsap County residents can safely dispose of the medicines they no longer need by taking them to drop-boxes located throughout Kitsap County. Participating pharmacies, clinics, and law enforcement offices will accept most prescription and over-the-counter medicines for disposal. There is no cost to residents to use this service.

This program is managed by MED-Project, the entity hired by pharmaceutical manufacturers to implement the Washington Drug Take-Back Program. Find the drop-off location nearest you at [MED-Project.org](http://MED-Project.org).

Most prescription and over-the-counter medicines can be returned, but medical sharps (needles, etc.) will not be accepted. Drugs sold in any form (solids, liquids, patches) and used by individuals (not businesses) are accepted, including:

- Prescription and non-prescription drugs
- Brand name and generic drugs
- Drugs for veterinary use
- Pre-filled auto-injectables (such as EpiPens) accepted via mail-back envelope

Medicines NOT Accepted:

- Medical sharps (needles, syringes) and used (empty) auto injectables (such as EpiPens)
- Vitamins or supplements
- Herbal-based remedies and homeopathic drugs, products or remedies
- Cosmetics, shampoos, sunscreens, toothpaste, lip balm, antiperspirants, or other personal care products
- Pet pesticide products contained in pet collars, powders, shampoos, topical applications, or other forms

Go to [MED-Project.org](http://MED-Project.org) and enter your zip code to find a complete list of accepted items. Thank you for disposing of your unwanted medications properly.

## TREATMENT PLANT TOURS AVAILABLE

Ever wonder what happens after you flush the toilet? Take a tour of the Central Kitsap Wastewater Treatment Plant (CKTP) and get a look at how the facility and personnel are working to keep Puget Sound clean.

CKTP serves the Central Kitsap area, Silverdale, Keyport, Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Station at Keyport, and the City of Poulsbo. An average of 4 million gallons of wastewater is treated here each day.

Kitsap County offers free tours to residents and school groups grades 4 and up. We also offer classroom presentations for all ages, education for community groups, and intern opportunities for individuals interested in a career in wastewater treatment.

Learn more about these and other educational opportunities offered by Kitsap County Public Works at [kcowa.us/lessons](http://kcowa.us/lessons).



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Medication Education & Disposal

