

## Island View Sanitary District

### It's a Toilet, Not a Trashcan

#### What NOT to flush

People sometimes view the toilet as an auxiliary wastebasket - an easy place to dump all kinds of things and make them disappear with the pull of a handle or by turning on a faucet. Unfortunately, many of the items that often end up in the toilet - even products labeled "flushable" or "biodegradable" - can cause significant clogging problems not only in your home or businesses' wastewater plumbing, but also for the IVSD sanitary sewer system and in Oshkosh Waste Water Treatment Plant. There are only three things that can be safely flushed down the toilet or washed down the drain regardless of how easily it appears to slide down the bottom of your toilet or down the sink drain. They are: human body waste, toilet paper and used water.

Wastewater should only contain solids that have been ground or dissolved to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely in suspension under conditions normally prevailing in public sewers. Solid particles shall be no more than one-half inch (1/2") in any dimension.



#### Simple Things to Do



Common items that are often flushed, BUT SHOULD NOT BE include: Wet Wipes (Baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, "flushable" wipes, paper towels, paper, disposable diapers, facial tissues, feminine hygiene products and condoms. Cotton swabs and band-aids, grease/cooking oil, dental floss, cat Litter, cigarette butts, and needles.

Often, these items do not make it past the lateral connection from your home to your local sewer system, building up and clogging the line. If these products make it to the street, they can still plug up and damage the pipes and pumps that convey sewage to the Oshkosh

Waste Water Treatment Plant, potentially causing overflows and basement backups that can be costly to repair. If those products make it to the treatment plant, they can also jam up equipment there.

#### Impact on Sewer Systems

Impact on sewer system of these unacceptable items in the sanitary sewer system: Clogged pumps, increased overflows, plugged plumbing and septic systems, labor time/cost to respond, failed equipment, injuries to staff cleaning up non-flushable items and increased cost to the IVSD residents. To help protect the investment we have all made in our homes and the sewer system, please dispose of all disposable wipes, personal hygiene products, and all other items listed above or that do not meet the 3 flushable items above, in the garbage and NOT the toilet.



IT'S A TOILET, NOT A TRASHCAN! Adapted from the LaCrosse, WI Sanitary Sewer Utility <https://www.cityoflacrosse.org/content/407/3701/4753/4763/>