

## What about my garbage disposal?

Everything that you put in your garbage disposal ends up at the City Wastewater Treatment Facility. Please keep in mind the list of items that cannot be flushed when putting things down your sink drain. If it can't be flushed, it should not be put down your drain either.

Garbage disposals are intended to aid in the breakdown of many organic materials. Food items are common for people to put down the garbage disposal however grease should never be dumped in your sink. Grease from food should be poured into a container that can be disposed of weekly with your solid waste.

Fats, oils and greases that get poured down a drain solidify within the pipe as the temperature cools. Over time, this can create a complete clog in your house waste piping or even in the City line. While you can't see the clog forming, the backup can be sudden as all of the waste being flushed or put down the drain will backup in to every drain in your home including bathtubs and showers. Not only is this very messy for clean up but it is also costly.

## How do I dispose of:

Medicines– These can be returned to a pharmacy, or dropped off at the City of Coeur d'Alene Police Department (including prescriptions for your pets)



Food Grease– Collect the grease in a container and when it solidifies, it can be thrown in the garbage.

Wipes, tampons, applicators, sanitary napkins, condoms– These items should all be disposed of in sanitary bags and disposed of with your solid waste garbage.



## CITY OF COEUR D ALENE WASTEWATER UTILITY DEPT.

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CITY OF COEUR D ALENE  
*Wastewater Utility Department*

## What is Safe to Flush?



## What Items are Flushable?

Only three items are actually safe to flush down your toilet.

1. Human Waste
2. Toilet Paper
3. Wastewater

All items flushed down the toilet should be dispersible. This means that they should have the ability to dissolve and become a part of the water flow.

### Safe to Flush Test

Place two bowls of water on a table. In the first bowl place a couple of squares of toilet paper. In the second, place any other item that you are questioning the ability to flush. After one hour, check both bowls, if the item in bowl two has broken down at the same rate as the toilet paper in bowl one, it is safe to flush. Chances are, you will not find a product that breaks down at this same rate so to be safe, only flush the 3 items listed above.

## ITEMS THAT ADVERTISEMENTS AND COMMERCIALS CLAIM ARE FLUSHABLE— BUT AREN'T

- **Flushable Wipes**– these are only slightly thinner than actual baby wipes and do not break down quickly. These can cause major damage to sewer equipment and could potentially clog your line. If you live in a home with a basement bathroom, the sump pump could become damaged by this product.
- **Tampons**– the cotton which makes up this product does not breakdown easily in water and can easily snag in your line and create a backup. These items also have to be removed at the Wastewater plant and disposed of as solid waste.
- **Disposable Toilet brushes (toilet scrub pads on cleaning wand)**- These are not biodegradable and they contain chemicals that are difficult to remove from the water.

Companies manufacture these products to make life easier for the consumer. These items are money making products for this industry. What the consumer may not be aware of is that these items are not dispersible and could cause damage in their own sewer pipes or pumps.

**Please dispose of these items in a solid waste container.**

## Other items that you should never flush

- Any type of wipe product– baby wipes, facial cleaning wipes/towelettes, cleaning/disinfecting wipes
- Diapers
- Cotton balls, cotton swabs
- Paper towels, napkins
- Clothing
- Wash cloths, towels, rags
- Sponges
- Bandages
- Floor sweepers or dusters
- Dryer Sheets
- Tampon applicators, sanitary napkins, condoms (all rubber items)
- Dental floss
- Cigarette butts
- Hair
- Chemicals not used to clean toilet
- Razors, blades, syringes & needles
- Vitamins, medicines or any other drug
- Coffee grounds
- Plastic of any kind
- Kitty Litter
- ANY NON-ORGANIC MATERIAL

