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**Media Release:
What Happened to all the Toilet Paper?
What to flush and not to flush; that is the question.**

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In consideration of the recent run on toilet paper, and the likelihood that “alternative means” may be employed, Newport Public Works is publishing this service announcement to discuss what may, and may not, be flushed down the toilet.

When you use the toilet to dispose of things that should go in the trash, you risk clogging your home’s wastewater pipes and Newport’s wastewater lines and pump stations. This can also affect your neighbor’s sewer lateral as well, and can cause sewage to back up into their house as well as yours.

It’s important to remember that whatever goes down the toilet can potentially impact the environment, so if in doubt, trash it!

Flushable Wipes are not so “flushable”



Unlike toilet paper, which breaks down quickly in water, wet wipes remain intact and tangle into massive clogs that jam pumps and block pipes. Even those labeled “flushable” do not break down in water. We know people are going to use wipes, especially in light of the toilet paper shortage, but please use them sparingly and flush only one or two at a time.



Grease is a leading cause of sewer overflows

Fats, oils, and grease, referred to as “FOG” in the Public Works industry, is a major cause of sewer overflows. Grease cools as it travels through pipes and over time, the accumulation of grease can block pipes. Grease and other fatty substances contribute to clogs, so dispose of all fats, oils, and grease in the trash, not down the drain.

Medications

Wastewater treatment plants do not have the ability to remove all pharmaceuticals. You can dispose of unwanted medications at the Newport Police Department at Newport City Hall. There is no charge for this service.

Help keep these compounds out of the water environment by disposing of old medications in the trash, but be sure to take precautions as recommended by the FDA.

Do Not Flush:

- Anything made of plastic
- Aquarium gravel or cat litter
- Baby wipes and diapers
- Cigarette butts
- Disposable toilet brushes
- Grease or oil
- Medications
- Paper towels, rags, and disposable dust towels
- Tampons and sanitary napkins

Newport Public Works thanks you for your help and cooperation. If you have further questions, please contact the City of Newport Public Works at 541-574-3366.

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