



Tempe Environmental Bulletin

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What Is the Problem with Disposable Wipes?

What Should Be Flushed?

Only toilet paper and human waste should be flushed down your toilet. Just because the package says "flushable" doesn't mean it should be flushed. Many of the items marketed as disposable and/or flushable do not degrade like toilet paper, and wind up clogging pipes, tangling pumps and causing messy sewer backups into streets, businesses and homes. Despite being labeled as disposable, non-dissolving items should not be flushed down the toilet. The drains that connect your building to the sewer system, and ultimately a waste water treatment plant are designed, installed and sized to carry and treat water, toilet paper, and human waste. **Wipes Clog Pipes.**

So What Should We Do?

Avoid disposing non-dissolving "flushable" items in the toilet. Clean with a sponge or a rag that you can reuse. If it can't be reused, recycled or composted, please place it in the garbage. For further information: Contact the City of Tempe, Environmental Services Section (480) 350-2678.



Changes to City of Tempe Backflow Prevention Program



Tempe's Environmental Services Section is responsible for administering the City's Backflow Prevention Program, which is a containment program as defined by state regulation, R18-4-215, and Tempe City Code, Chapter 33, Article 5. The purpose of the Backflow program is to protect the public water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution caused by backflow. This is accomplished by inspecting service connections to ensure compliance with ordinances related to backflow, tracking the annual testing of privately-owned backflow assemblies to ensure proper operation, and investigating water quality complaints and backflow incidents.

The City is developing a compliance data system ("CDS") which will be fully implemented in early 2013. This system will allow all information on the testing of privately-owned assemblies to be entered into the City's backflow database over the internet. The tester registration portion of the backflow module is now available. Those testers who are currently recognized testers with valid e-mail addresses, will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to register. To find out whether the tester you are using is approved, please call the City of Tempe at: (480) 350-2678.

City of Tempe Stormwater Program Reminder:

"Be Stormwater Smart" and visit our website for Best Management Practices you can use to reduce the risk of adding pollutants to stormwater. <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>

You can also use this website to learn more about Tempe's Stormwater Management Program, to report illicit discharges to storm drains, or to file a stormwater related complaint.

Remember that it is a violation of the City of Tempe Code to cause or allow a non-stormwater discharge to a stormwater drain!

As required by Tempe's stormwater permit, Environmental Compliance Inspectors have significantly increased commercial and industrial stormwater inspections. If you would like to schedule an inspection at your facility, please call: (480) 350-2678.

