

The City of Tempe needs your help

# Wipes clog pipes!

Put them in the trash - not the toilet!

Just because the package says "flushable" doesn't mean it's true. Many of the items marketed as disposable and/or flushable do not degrade like toilet paper, and they wind up clogging pipes, tangling pumps and causing messy sewer backups into streets, businesses and homes.

## These items belong in the trash - not the toilet:

- Disinfecting wipes
- Baby wipes
- Mop refills
- Paper towels or napkins
- Towelettes
- Diapers (cloth, disposable, "flushable")
- Facial tissues
- Toilet bowl scrub pads
- Swiffers



## What should be flushed? Just toilet paper and human waste. That's it.

Our sewers are designed to dispose of very specific things. The drains that connect your home to the main sewer - often no wider than four inches - are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste.

The question comes down to how quickly a flushable product breaks down in water. In 2009, Consumer Reports tested many of the leading brands of toilet paper and flushable wipes and concluded that all of the wipes completely failed the disintegration test, while even the strongest, thickest toilet papers squeaked by with a low passing grade. Consumer Reports recommends disposing of wipes and similar products in the trash rather than the toilet.

For more information, contact City of Tempe Environmental Services (480) 350-2678.

