

## General Environmental Information

Please flush ONLY toilet paper and human waste. Wipes for cleaning just about everything in the home from toilet bowls to baby bottoms can block pumps at our Water Pollution Control Facility. Even though some of the wipes are marketed as flushable or biodegradable, they don't break down fast enough to make it through the wastewater treatment process.

This problem received worldwide attention when London, England officials reported removing a 15 ton "bus-sized lump" of wrongly flushed grease and flushable/non-flushable - nicknamed the "**fatberg**".

So before we have anything that large accumulating here in East Hampton, your WPCA asks that you flush responsibly.

The following provides some guidance of common items that should **NOT** be flushed or put down the drain:

### Personal Care Products

Band Aids, Prophylactics/Condoms, Sanitary Napkins/Tampons, Cotton Balls/ Swabs  
Gloves - Latex/Rubber, Hair Clippings/Pet Hair, Wipes-Baby, Dental Floss, Diapers,  
Non-Dissolving Tissue/Toilet Paper

### Household

Plastic Bags/Objects, Socks & Underwear, Rags or cloths, Aquarium Gravel/Sand/Stone,  
Disposable Toilet Bowl Scrubbers, Bones, Egg Shells & Seafood Shells, Candle Wax  
Cat Litter, Cigarette Butts, Cooking Grease/Oil/Lard, Metal Objects, Wood Objects  
Wipes- Cleaning & Sanitary, Paper Towels, Waste Food Products

### Medical

Syringes/Needles, Tip Guards, Medication, Vitamins & Supplements

The above and similar items will cause blockages that could back up into your home or cause Environmental damage. While most of these items seem obvious you might be surprised how often they turn up, and the expense that is incurred to remove them or replace damaged pumps and equipment. Highlighted items may not be as obvious and as a result cause significant operational problems. A simple step you can take to reduce the amount of grease that goes down the drain is to wipe down greasy dishes with paper towels before washing them.

Never put any of the following **liquids** into the sewer system:

Antifreeze, Gasoline/Kerosene, Paint Thinner/Turpentine, Corrosive/Acidic Material, Lubricating Oil, Solvents Cleaning/Degreasing, Explosives, Medicines, Strong Chemicals, Flammable Material, Pesticides, Paint.

These items may interact with other chemicals in the public sewer system causing damage to the sewer infrastructure and creating dangerous conditions for sewer workers.

Flush only the three P's: Pee, Poop and (toilet) Paper.

Thank you for your help in maintaining an effective sewer system  
East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority



Thames Water/PA Media

The mass was blocking a sewer beneath Belgravia

Engineers had to clear the final sections of the blockage using small tools and their hands.

Thames Water's head of waste networks Matt Rimmer said the fatberg had "set hard and had to be destroyed to get the sewer flowing well again".

"Our brilliant engineers were able to clear the huge blockage before it caused serious problems, but we're urging everyone to be especially careful what they flush down their toilets," he added.