



*A message from the*

## Franklin Department of Public Works

257 Fisher Street – Franklin, MA 02038 – 508-520-4910

# What Not To Flush

Just because you flush human waste down the toilet doesn't mean it's safe to flush other types of waste along with it. Sewers are designed to take away wastewater from sinks and baths, as well as toilet paper and human waste flushed down the toilet, but hundreds of people cause blockages in sewers by putting trash down the toilet. **Just because an item is called disposable doesn't mean it is safe to flush. Instead, bag it and put it in the trash... don't flush it!**

### DO NOT FLUSH:

- Paper towels, disposable wipes, washcloths and rags
- Synthetic materials such as plastic, which do not decompose or dissolve
- Feminine products
- Cotton balls
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Unused Medications
- Syringes\*
- Fats, Oil and Grease

**Please do not flush trash down the toilet!**



**Flip for more information**



## PLEASE DO NOT USE THE TOILET AS A TRASH CAN.

The amount of trash that makes its way to our wastewater pump stations and treatment facility is increasing along with the increasing popularity of disposable wipes, washcloths and rags. **When you flush items such as baby wipes, hand wipes, floor wipes, etc. down the toilet, they often get stuck in our sewage pumps, which can damage the pumps and cause sewer backups.** In addition to costly pump repairs, sewer backups can result in damage to nearby homes and businesses and can have environmental impacts if the sewage is discharged into the environment.

**Unused Medications** are often disposed of in the toilet, but it is important to remember that treated wastewater eventually ends up in our rivers and streams. A 2002 USGS study found that 80% of streams in the U.S. have measurable concentrations of prescription drugs. To help reduce our impact on the environment, please dispose of unused prescription medications properly. Ask your pharmacy if they have a take-back program, or dispose of unused medications in the Take-Back Container at the Franklin Police Department located at 911 Panther Way.

**Fats, Oil and Grease** are some of the primary causes of blockages in sanitary sewer collection systems. Too often grease is washed into the plumbing system usually through the kitchen sink. When grease cools it lines the pipes, decreasing the opening until the pipe blocks up completely and sewage backs up into homes, businesses or manholes. Do not pour grease down the drain. Instead, pour it into a disposable container, let it cool, and dispose of it in the trash.



### THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH

\*Syringes can be safely disposed of at the DPW Office at 257 Fisher Street. Syringes will not be accepted unless they are in an approved sharps container.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

For more information visit:

[town.franklin.ma.us/DPW](http://town.franklin.ma.us/DPW)