

Think before you flush



Know what to flush...

When we go to the loo, all we want to do is flush and forget. But it's not always quite that simple.

We live in a disposable age, with convenient products which can be used and thrown away. We've got wet wipes for faces, hands and bottoms; cotton wool; tissues; nappies; cotton buds and dental floss to name just a few.

Unfortunately, these products are often thrown down the loo, instead of the bin, causing havoc in the sewers.

The bad news is, when they're flushed these items don't just disappear down the u-bend, but clump together to block sewers. When blocked, sewers can flood homes and gardens, causing misery for families. Some of these items even end up in our rivers and on our beaches.

We know this because millions are spent every year on cleaning drains and sewers and clearing up around 1,000 homes and 5,000 gardens just in the North West, which have been flooded.



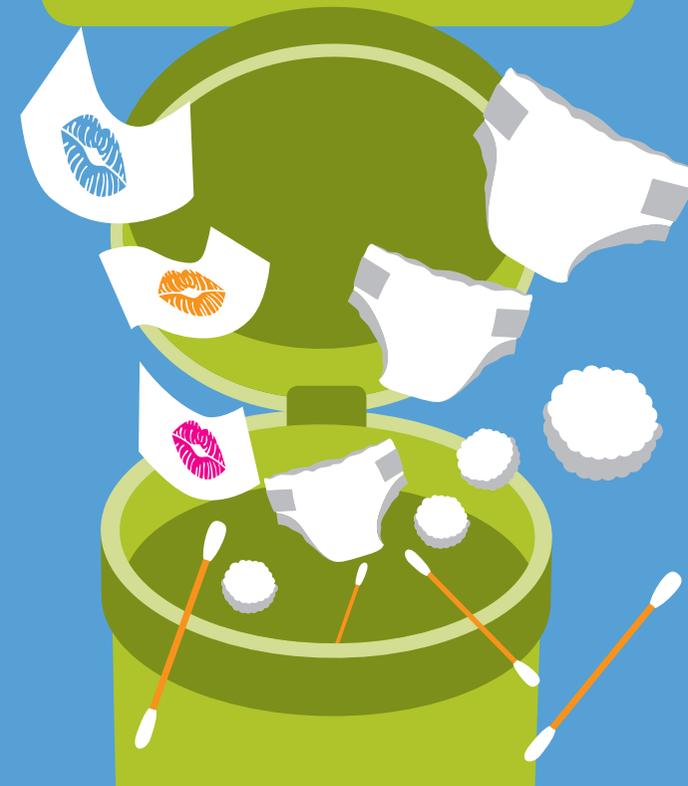
and what to bin

When the right things go down the loo (the 3 P's – pee, poo and toilet paper) they're flushed away and start a journey along underground sewer pipes to a treatment plant where the waste is taken out and the water is cleaned and returned to rivers and the sea.

However, when things are flushed that should be binned, they stick together and block the sewer, causing all the foul-smelling waste to flow back and flood into homes and gardens.

The best way to avoid this is to follow some simple loo rules:

- only flush the three P's – pee, poo and toilet paper
- everything else goes in the bin (even wipes that claim to be flushable).



to keep blockages and sewer flooding at bay

Blocked pipes due to flushed rubbish causes chaos and a heck of a mess, which is unpleasant and costly to clear up. Blockages look and smell like the most awful slimy, stinky monster you can imagine (we could have done a scratch and sniff, but didn't want to put you off your dinner!).

The gory facts:

Every year **1,000** homes and **5,000** gardens in the North West suffer the horror of sewer flooding, mainly caused when sewers get blocked with wipes and other items that should go in the bin.

Only flush the 3 P's (pee, poo and toilet paper) into your loo.

Never pour fat or oil into your kitchen sink.

Your home and garden could flood when waste that builds up behind blockages comes back through your pipes, loos and sinks.

Wipes, cotton wool, tissues, nappies, cotton buds, sanitary items, dental floss, tablets and fat from cooking build up and block pipes.

Blockages are a mix of items which shouldn't be flushed. You might imagine it as a monstrous mess – a bit like this chap!



The thing is, it's so easy to prevent blockages, here are some tips:

- have a bin in the bathroom, so nobody's tempted to flush
- never put food scraps, fat or oil down the sink or loo
- wipes, cotton wool, buds, sanitary products and nappies belong in the bin
- remember only to flush the three P's – pee, poo and toilet paper.

For more information and advice on what not to flush, visit unitedutilities.com/thinkbeforeyouflush