

# What Not to Flush

The earth's water is continuously recycled as it moves through the water cycle. That means the water we use today will someday be used by someone else—so it's important to keep it clean.



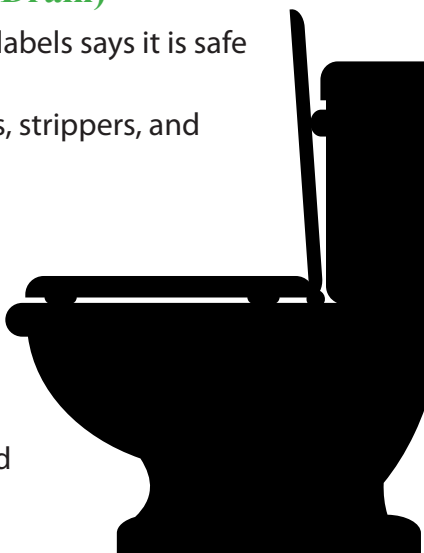
Wastewater treatment plants protect water quality by removing harmful pollutants before returning water to the environment, but the treatment process isn't designed to remove everything.

You can help protect water quality by knowing what *not* to flush, and using environmentally friendly alternatives for household cleaning.

Below is a list of the most common household items that should never be disposed of down the drain or in the toilet. Remember: always read the product label for proper disposal and safe handling instructions.

## What Not to Flush (or Drain)

- Medication (unless the labels says it is safe to do so)
- Paint and paint thinners, strippers, and removers
- Oven cleaner
- Grease and rust remover
- Mold and mildew remover
- Glue
- Fertilizer, pesticides, and insect killer
- Cooking oil and grease



## Proper Disposal of Medications

Remove the medicine from its original packaging and mix with coffee grounds or kitty litter in an empty can or plastic bag, then throw in the trash.