

# ATTENTION CITY OF FLANDREAU WATER AND SEWER CUSTOMERS

## Avoid Drain Pain

Just because packaging says flushable doesn't mean it's true. Many 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.

Our sewers are designed to dispose of very specific things. Using your toilet for disposal of many modern products can result in blockages. The drains that connect your home to the main sewer are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste. Sewer pipes are often no wider than 4 inches.

### ITEMS THAT SHOULD **NOT** BE FLUSHED

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| • Diapers – Cloth, or Disposable               | • Baby Wipes, Disinfectant Wipes, Moist Wipes                    |
| • Facial Tissues                               | • Dental Floss   |
| • Toilet Bowl Scrub Pads                       | • Egg Shells, Nutshells and coffee grounds                       |
| • Swiffer's                                    | • Fats oils and greases  |
| • Napkins – paper or cloth, paper towels       | • Food containing seeds and peelings                             |
| • Vitamins, Medicines or other pharmaceuticals | • Sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms or any non-organic material |
| • Hair   | • Any kind of plastic  |

If you must use a "wet wipe" product rather than just toilet paper, dispose of them in the garbage, not down the toilet. While packaging on some "flushable wipes" says the product will disintegrate like toilet paper, that generally is not accurate and these items can cause messy sewage backups into your home or neighbors' homes, local businesses or the street. If you are concerned about odors, try a lined garbage can with a well-fitting lid, a "diaper genie" style of container, wrap your wipes in pet waste bags or reused plastic grocery bags.

Unless the item disintegrates at the rate of toilet paper, it should be placed in the garbage and not down the toilet. Otherwise, you risk a blockage in your own pipes as well as clogging a pump station and causing a sewage backup for other homes and businesses

The City is responsible for cleaning the City's pipes and they frequently clear blockages. However, home owners are responsible for maintaining side sewers which connect from your home to the City's main lines in the streets.