

The Town of Mancos asks you...please...**DON'T FLUSH THAT!**

In 2012, the Town of Mancos installed a new wastewater treatment plant that utilizes green technology. This plant cost \$3 million dollars, paid by taxpayers and users of the sanitary system. The MSABP system utilizes “good” bacteria to break down waste. The bacteria and the equipment at the plant are very sensitive. Wastewater treatment facilities are sophisticated systems designed primarily to treat organic wastes, such as human waste and household wastewater, with sensitive, natural processes doing the work of breaking them down safely. Untreatable products can interfere with or skirt those natural processes and harm pipes, pumps, systems and the environment.

- ✓ **Help us protect this important investment by preventing costly repairs to the system.**
- ✓ **Be careful about what you send down the drain and the toilet to protect your household system.**
- ✓ **As a general rule, nothing should be disposed into any wastewater system that hasn't first been ingested, other than toilet tissue, mild and non-chemical detergents, and wash water.**
- ✓ **If it can't be reused, recycled or composted, please place it in the garbage.**



Removing Items Caught in Treatment Plant Auger

Here are some additional guidelines.

DON'T

- **Flush wipes and diapers**, even those that are labeled “flushable or disposable.” This includes nursing and diaper pads, adult diapers, baby, personal, cleaning and facial wipes and paper towels. These items, despite their claims, do not disintegrate quickly enough in sewer systems, causing clogs in sewer pipes and treatment plant machinery and costing tax payers thousands of dollars in repairs and maintenance. Just because it’s “flushable” doesn’t mean it’s biodegradable.
- **Flush your medications and vitamins.** Some medication can be broken down during the water treatment process, yet many drugs are able to pass unchanged through the process, directly entering the receiving environment.
- **Let fats, oils, grease and leftover food go down the drain.** Grease sticks to household and sanitary sewer pipes. Over time, grease build-up will block the entire pipe and result in raw sewage backing up into your home or overflowing into the street or waterway. Restaurants are required to have grease traps that are inspected regularly.
- **Flush or put down the drain other items including (but not limited to):**
Band-aids and bandage wrappers, condoms, sanitary pads, tampons and applicators, cotton balls, swabs and pads, dental floss and teeth whitening strips, hair, kitty litter, paint and other chemicals, excessive amounts of body oils

Flushing the wrong things down the toilet damages your household plumbing, your environment and the municipal wastewater treatment system. If it isn't sewage or toilet paper, put it in the trash instead of the toilet.

DO

- **Avoid purchasing flushable items.** Clean with a sponge or a rag that you can reuse.
- **Discard hazardous materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, etc., cleaners and paint properly.** Use substitutes for household hazardous waste when possible. Replace hazardous products with products that are less harmful.
- **Collect grease and oils in a container and dispose with your trash.** And avoid using garbage disposals excessively. Compost food scraps or dispose with your trash.
- **Keep lint out of your wastewater treatment system** by cleaning the lint filters on your washing machine and dryer before every load.

For questions, please contact the Town of Mancos via email at info@mancoscolorado.com