

## **“No Muss, No Fuss- Be Wise When You Flush!” DRAFT**

**\*The scene starts with a small child flushing a rubber ducky, a watch, and the remote down the toilet. As the water overflows, a parent comes in with a look of horror\***

Small children are notorious for flushing down the wrong things. But did you know that adults get this wrong, too? Be wise when you flush by remembering to only flush the 3 P’s- Pee, Poop, and Toilet Paper!

Let’s explore what happens when we flush! When water leaves our homes, either through the toilet or a drain, it flows through the sewer system to be treated at a local wastewater treatment facility. After it is treated, it is released back into our water ways where we access it for drinking, bathing, and cleaning. When we flush items other than the 3 P’s, such as wipes, paper towels, or Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), these items can cause blockages and sewer backups, leading to harmful bacteria being released into our environment.

A common misconception is that wipes can be flushed safely. Wipes, even those labeled as “flushable”, do not break down in water the way toilet paper does. The same goes for feminine hygiene products and paper towels that were designed to absorb fluids, not be broken down by them. Fats, Oils, and Grease, or FOG, solidify and harden to the walls of our pipes which can trap additional materials in the blockage, creating large masses called fatbergs.

Flushing anything besides the 3 P’s can lead to clogged pipes, costly repairs, and sanitary sewer overflows, which increases the amount of harmful bacteria ending up in our waterways. Remember: no muss, no fuss, be wise when you flush! All you have to do is remember to only flush the 3 P’s- Pee, Poop, and Toilet Paper!

Learn more at [www.nctcog.org/TMDL](http://www.nctcog.org/TMDL) or [www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com](http://www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com).