Toilets and sewer systems are designed for human waste and bathroom tissue only

Medical waste like gloves, wipes, and masks, now common due to the COVID-19 pandemic, should not be thrown into toilets, sewer systems, or storm water drains. These items are contaminants that must be put into the trash. Even if they're small or claim to be “flushable,” everyday items can create costly problems for your plumbing and your community’s sewer treatment network.

The filter screens seen here are covered in scores of disposable wipes and other sanitary products that were flushed down the toilet.

Products that might seem safe to flush, such as personal care wipes, dental floss and paper towels, don't dissolve quickly – or at all – in water. If a scrap of undissolved material gets caught within a pipe, it can trigger a buildup that could cause a sewer backup in your home.

Prevent costly backups by putting wipes and other medical items in the trash. Your toilet is not a trash can.

Never flush

- Personal protective equipment like masks, gloves, and tissues
- Personal & baby wipes or diapers
- Disposable menstrual products
- Condoms
- Facial tissues
- Paper towels
- Cleaning wipes & rags
- Dental floss
- Cat litter
- Cotton balls and swabs
- Cigarette butts
- Over-the-counter or prescription medicines