

August 2018

THE “UNFLUSHABLES”

Many common household products are commonly flushed down the toilet and wind up in our sewer system. But flushing these products, even ones called “flushable” can clog pipes, break pumps and cause sanitary sewer overflows, problems that can be avoided. Fact is, only toilet paper is designed to actually be flushed into the sewer system.



These items should never be flushed into the sewer system, even if the packaging indicates that it is acceptable to do so:

- Disinfecting wipes, Baby wipes
- Q tips
- Toilet cleaning pads
- Mop or “Swiffer” type refills
- Paper towels
- Disposable diapers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Moist towelettes
- Any consumer item that is not toilet paper

In addition, JSA strongly recommends discarding any unused cooking oils, animal fat, and greases into the trash and not into the sewers,

where they can cause blockages in your service line, or the main sewer line. Save yourself and the JSA. Do not flush the listed items; place them in the trash, not the toilet.

The Paducah McCracken Joint Sewer Agency provides wastewater collection and treatment throughout most of the City of Paducah and McCracken County. JSA is responsible for operating and maintaining three wastewater treatment plants, 385 miles of gravity sewer and 75 lift stations. For more information, please contact the JSA at 270.575.0056 or visit our website at www.jointsewer.com.

PROPER MEDICINE DISPOSAL

Everyone should use caution when disposing of unused medicines. No one truly knows the impact of flushing unused medicines into the sewers and the impact to the environment, as wastewater treatment plants are not designed for removal of prescription medication. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has detailed instructions related to the disposal of unused medicines on their website www.fda.gov (or simply Google “FDA safe disposal of medicines”). According to the FDA, almost all medicines can be safely disposed of by using medicine take-back programs.

Here in Paducah, the Paducah Police Department partners with the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide a year-round drop box where people can drop off expired or no longer needed medications at the Police Department headquarters located at 1400 Broadway. The box is located in the lobby and accessible during normal business hours. Citizens need only to bring their medications to the lobby of the department and drop them into the designated box. No information is requested, and the police department will properly destroy the medication to ensure that it does not enter the water system or fall in the hands of drug dealers or our children.