



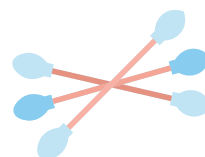
To Flush or Not To Flush



Every day, Prince William Water cleans millions of gallons of wastewater – that's what we call the water after people have used it and sent it down the drain or the toilet. Sometimes, things are flushed down the toilet or put down the drain that can clog the pipes that move wastewater from houses to the treatment plant where water gets clean again.

In this experiment you will see what happens inside of the sewers when "un-flushable" items are flushed.

Hypothesis



Write down your hypothesis (your guess) about what will happen when toilet paper, wet wipes and cotton swabs are left in water for seven days.

Materials

- 3 clear containers with lids
- Water
- Sharpie
- Toilet Paper
- Wet wipe
- Cotton swabs





Experiment

1. Gather all your materials.
2. Fill each clear container with the same amount of water.
3. Place each type of item (toilet paper, wet wipes, cotton swabs) in its own container.
4. Put the lid on each container.
5. Label your “sewers” to help you remember what item is inside.
6. Put the containers somewhere safe for seven days.
7. On days two, five, and seven give each jar a gentle shake and record your observations.

Observations

| | Toilet Paper | Wet Wipes | Cotton Swabs |
|-------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Day 2 | | | |
| Day 5 | | | |
| Day 7 | | | |



Conclusion

1. What were the main differences in each sewer by the end of the experiment?

More Research

1. Keep your experimental containers in a safe place. How long does it take for the wet wipes to break down?

2. What is it called when fat, wet wipes, and other non-flushable things cause a clog in a pipe?
