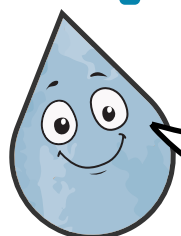
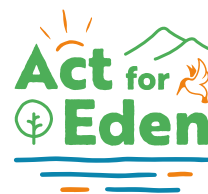


To flush, or not to flush?

Experiment



It is important that we know what is safe to flush down the toilet. Flushing the wrong things can cause really big problems. Sewer pipes can get blocked, causing wastewater to come back into our homes and schools. YUK!

Sometimes, these things end up going straight into our rivers and seas, causing pollution and harming wildlife. YUK!!

In this experiment you'll compare a number of items with toilet paper, to find out which things are safe to flush and which are not.

Instructions

1. 'Test-flush' toilet paper as a whole class, led by your teacher.

Results Describe what toilet paper looks like after being shaken in a bottle of water for 90 seconds.

2. Now write down which items you are testing as a class and make predictions about whether or not they are safe to flush.

Bottle	Item to be 'flushed'	Prediction Flushable? Y/N	Result What it looks like after flushing	Conclusion Flushable? Y/N
A				
B				
C				
D				
E				
F				
G				
H				
I				

3.

Now, working in a pair, you will have one bottle and one item to test. At least one other pair will test the same item.

To make this a Fair Test, we will:

- Use the same size / shape _ _ _ _ _
- Use the same amount of _ _ _ _ _
- Shake the bottle in the same way and for the same length of _ _ _ _

Method

1. Half-fill your bottle with water (use measuring jug if needed).
2. Add the item to be flushed, screw the top on and carefully turn upside down to check it has been screwed on tightly enough – **DO NOT SHAKE YET!**
3. Place bottle on table and wait for instructions from your teacher.
4. When instructed, shake your bottle for 90 seconds.

Results

1. Look carefully at the contents of your bottle. How has the item changed during 'flushing'? Does it look the same as the bottle of flushed toilet paper? Write down what it looks like in the table.
2. As a class look at and discuss the results of each item.

Conclusion

1. Which items are flushable? (Write yes or no in the table).

2. Which items, if any, gave a different result than you, or the class, were expecting. Why do you think this is?

3. Now, list the Items that are flushable here, and come up with a way of making it easy to remember them.

We should only ever flush ...

Equipment per pair.

- One clear, clean plastic bottle, with lid. Minimum 0.5L size. Labelled with a letter.
- Item for 'flushing' (matching the letter on your bottle to item as in your class table).
- Measuring jug (if needed)
- Tap water
- Stopwatch (or one per class)