

### **Our Toilets are Not Garbage Cans!**

Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) encourages communities to think before they ‘flush’. Urging consumers to take a closer look at their water use habits, the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) and the Clean Water Foundation (CWF) recently launched the *I Don’t Flush* public awareness campaign. The campaign asks the public to properly dispose of pharmaceuticals and other household hazardous waste as opposed to flushing them down the toilet or drain, or throwing them in the garbage where they can contribute to environmental contamination and create problems for water infrastructure.

The campaign encourages the public to ‘not flush’ their unused pharmaceuticals in a fun and somewhat cheeky tone. The public service announcement also points to the website [www.idontflush.ca](http://www.idontflush.ca) where residents can find information on what to do with all non-flushables, including paints and solvents, unused medications, fats/oils/grease, baby wipes, hair dyes and other household hazardous waste.

To see the full list of participating supporters, to view the PSA and to find out more about how to properly dispose of non-flushables, visit [www.idonflush.ca](http://www.idonflush.ca).

In addition to the website, more information can be found on Facebook and you can join the conversation on Twitter (@Idontflushnews) at #idontflush.

### **Top Ten Things Not to Flush**

1. Medications
  - ⇒ Prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, illegal drugs, patches, and hypodermic needles
2. Cloth
  - ⇒ Cleaning rags, nylon stockings, underwear, shop towels, mop heads, dental floss
3. Feminine Products
  - ⇒ Sanitary pads, tampons, applicators
4. Plastic
  - ⇒ Plastic bags, plastic cotton swabs, disposable lighters, hotel shampoo bottles
5. Chemicals
  - ⇒ Cleaning products, herbicides, insecticides, solvents
6. Grease
  - ⇒ Auto, industrial
7. Wipes
  - ⇒ Baby wipes, “disposable/flushable” wipes, personal hygiene wipes, and cleaning wipes
8. Cooking Oil/Grease
  - ⇒ Fats, oils, cooking grease - used or unused
9. Condoms
  - ⇒ Condoms and condom wrappers
10. Diapers
  - ⇒ Paper or cloth, no matter how dirty, please dispose of in trash

Please keep in mind that everything that is flushed or put down a drain has to be cleaned and removed before treated water can be released into Northern Ontario’s waters.