

28th Annual Spring Septic System Conference & Expo By Ray Gordon, NH DES

Agenda



- What is Flushable?
- Flushable vs. Dispersible?
- INDA Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
- "Good" "Bad" and "Ugly"
- Impact on Septic Systems and Wastewater Facilities
- Solutions







What is Dispersible?

dis perse (dĭ-spûrs') 1.

- a. To drive off or scatter in different directions: The police dispersed the crowd.
 b. To strew or distribute widely: The airplane dispersed the leaflets over the city.
 Co cause to vanish or disappear. See Synonyms at scatter.
- 3. To disseminate (knowledge, for example).
- 4.
- To separate (light) into spectral rays. To distribute (particles) evenly throughout a medium. 5.



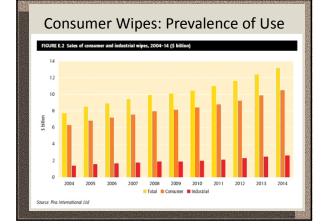


Consumer Wipes: Benefits

Convenience

- PortabilityDisposable
- Easy-to-use
- Time saving
- Health/Hygiene
 - Limit Cross Contamination
 - Safety













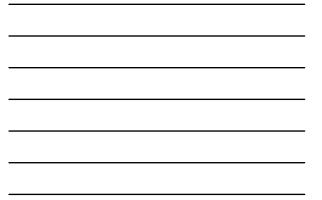








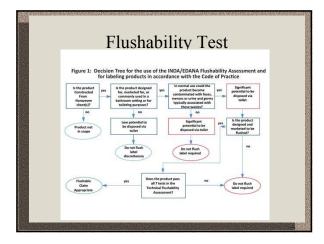






INDA's Take on it

- Wipes usage has been increasing at a healthy 10% per year <u>but</u> only 5% of wipes are marketed as "flushable" (less than 1% in North America).
- INDA members see baby wipes and similar as very different from "flushable".
- INDA developed "Do Not Flush" logo, but members are not willing to put it on valuable "real estate" on front of product packaging.
- Focusing on R&D: "World of Wipes" conference, watersoluble binders.
- Developed "Flushability Assessment"- voluntary, contains some vague language. http://www.inda.org/



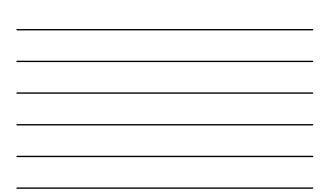


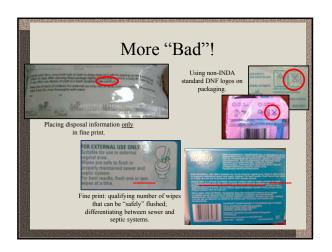


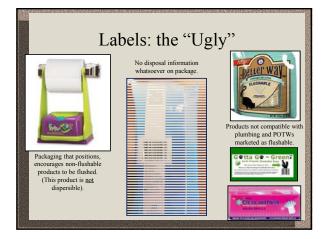
















amazon.com Reviews

Pampers Kandoo Flushable Wipes

- Kandon't Use These By Doc Holladay on April 24, 2013 These wipes don't break down in water. I was up until 2 this morning, snaking our line, because everything backed up into our basement. It was aweome. And by "awesome," Inean I pulled out grey and black clumps of intack Kandoo wipes from the line, and had to disinfect the entire basement Bior. The only thing these "kandoo" is create a serious headache, and put you out anywhere from 5150-5300. I'm not blarning the product, because I really should've known heater than to flush something down the totlet that looks, as if the's saying. "Don't worry, I'll clean up all your field messes-1 Kandoo" anything? Yay" In reality, he's saying. "I'might clean your child's hum with easies, but I'm going to make sure you're cleaning up your family's poo water from the basement floor in several months? Yay!" .
- Clogged our sewer main line the real cost of these wipes was over \$1000 for us., December 31, 2013 By ΔV Even when flushing only have recommended amount, we ended up with dog in our main sewer line which backed up into our home, filling our haltroom and garage with ewage and piles of these wipes, which had not broken down in any way since they were flushed weeks ago. We needed to have both a plumber out as well as a cleanup service. If you are looking for a flushable wipe that is safe for your plumbing, this is not it.

amazon.com[•] **Reviews**

Cottonelle Fresh Care Flushable Cleansing Cloths

 Good on you tush ... Bad for you pipes, December 30, 2013 By <u>asterp</u>
I LOVE these, the pipes in my house however, HATE these. \$300 dollar plumber bill and what I'm sure will be a lengthy process in fixing our damaged dry wall and carpet have made these products less desirable. They will back up your pipes and lead to a clog which will ultimately lead to water overflowing somewhere in your house. In our case our recently finished basement... UGH.

They work on you... not on your pipes!!!, December 30, 2013 By <u>Robbie</u> We were big fans of this product. They were a great alternative to toilet paper, and certainly felt "cleaner" to us.

Well, the plumber just left and a few hundred dollars later, the flushable wipes were the culprit in our backed up pipes. He explained that these wipes do not break down like the package says they do, and they will ultimately lead to problems, especially in older pipes and main sewer lines. Save yourself the trouble and stick with original TP!!

amazon.com Reviews

Kirkland Signature Moist Flushable Wipes

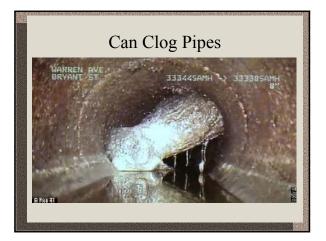
- NOT flushable, July 10, 2013 By <u>EC4151</u> Was looking down the barrel of a 5400 plumbing bill but fortunately the plumber was able to retrieve all the of the fully intact "lushable" wipes without having to dismantle the toilet. Be aware that these are NOT flushable peakaging claims.
- Flushable wipes apparently not so much. November 4, 2012 By <u>handaid</u> First of all, they are difficult to get out in 1 piece, but mostly they do not break down, had to pay a RotoRooter gay to snake the line, \$198 later and all he found were these clogging up the main line. Don't be fooled, these are not flushable.
- DO NOT FLUSH, August 13, 2012 By <u>M. Gradv "maraquint"</u> We recently bought several boxes of these "flushable" wipes. Fast forward to today when my landlord had to get our sewer line snaked and clean up a basement flooded with sevage because these wipes did not break down at all once they were flushed. We had no idea that these would clog our sever lines especially since the box claims they are safe to flush and that they are safe for sever and septic systems. This IS NOT TRUE: Save yourself line and money and either d on ot by these wipes or do not flush them if you buy them, this will save you lots of time and money down the road.







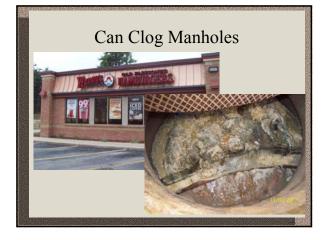














Who is having these problems? "Everyone"

Maine (MWWCA) did an online survey in early 2011.

- 58 responses from across the state.
- 90% indicated problems with the types of products we're discussing today.
- 40% indicated that they have had more than 10 incidents *in the last year alone*.
- Excluding PWD, cost was nearly \$600,000, or an average of \$37,500 per Town.
- 86% say they have tried a variety of outreach education.

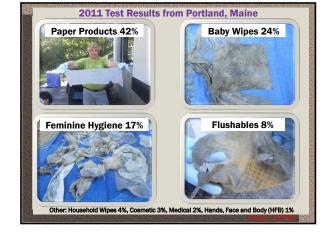
2011 MWWCA Survey (cont.)

- Despite education efforts 74% report customers still think it is ok to flush products
- 2 respondents reported injuries to employees as a result of non-dispersibles
- 12 indicated the response required confined space entries
- 27 respondents reported basement backups as a results of non-dispersibles

Non-Dispersibles and PWD

- Town of Gorham, ME
 - Weekly visits to several stations \$24,000 per year
 - Replace pumps \$50,000
- Westbrook, ME
 - \$3.8 million screenings upgrade at 2 pump stations
- Portland, ME
 - Visit CSO regulator 3 times/week \$16,000 per year

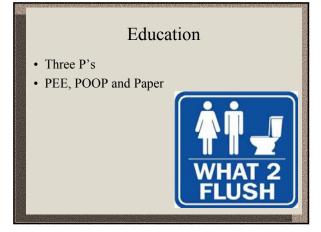








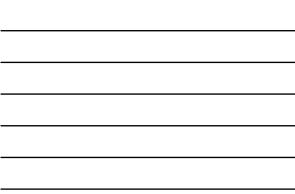


















Legislation

- We first saw legislation proposed in California, Holland, New Jersey, the UK and then Maine. To my knowledge, no states or countries have yet enacted flushability legislation. -
- our data shows that of all the nonwoven products made in North America only 0.5% are flushable moist toilet tissue (MTT). - See more at: http://www.nonwovensindustry.com/issues/2012-04-spwipes/view_features/third-times-a-charm-for-flushablewipes/#sthash.fv6OJ2Rh.dpuf

Legislative Efforts

- CA AB 2256: February 2010- failed.
- NJ AB 3119: July 2010- failed.
- Maine LD 781: Mixed support from then Committee and Maine DEP- failed. New ENR Committee, AG, Maine DEP are requiring INDA to stay engaged. Mixed results.
- WA, NJ are considering legislation.
- Maine may try again with more supportive political climate, documented poor response from INDA.

Future Legislation

- Needs to be clear about enforcement responsibility.
- If manufacturers are concerned about being the first to put logos in prime packaging "real estate", this will level the playing field.
- · Truth-in-advertising.
- · Product stewardship.
- Encourage R&D.
- Not anti-business: just make *guidelines* into *standards*.

