




Current Issues with Non-Dispersibles
28th Annual Spring Septic System Conference & Expo
By Ray Gordon, NH DES

Agenda

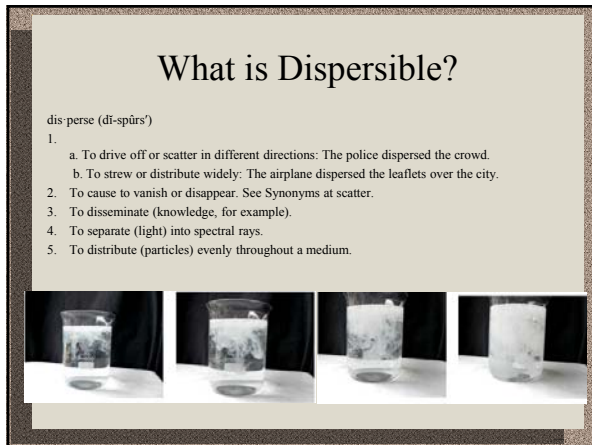


- What is Flushable?
- Flushable vs. Dispersible?
- INDA - Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
- “Good” “Bad” and “Ugly”
- Impact on Septic Systems and Wastewater Facilities
- Solutions

What is Flushable?









Consumer Wipes: Benefits

Convenience

- Portability
- Disposable
- Easy-to-use
- Time saving

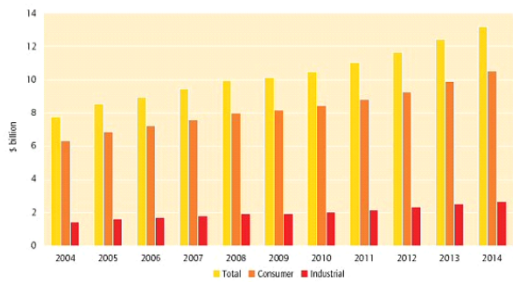
Health/Hygiene

- Limit Cross Contamination
- Safety



Consumer Wipes: Prevalence of Use

FIGURE E.2 Sales of consumer and industrial wipes, 2004-14 (\$ billion)



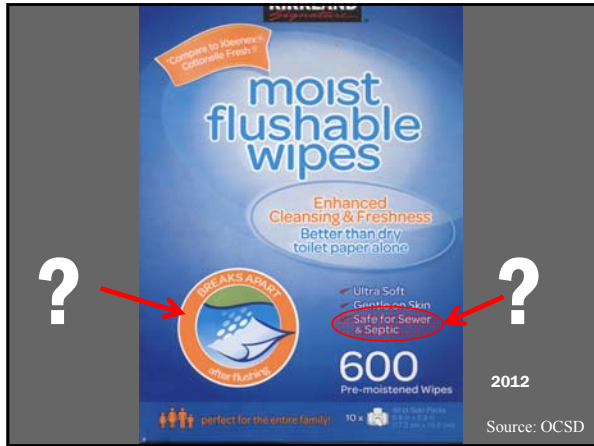
Source: Pira International Ltd

Flushable But Not Dispersible Wipes

4 hours heavy stirring at OCSD Lab 2010



Source: UKSIR








Conclusion

Toilet Paper is
Dispersible




Most Flushable Wipes are
not Dispersible





INDA's Take on it



- Wipes usage has been increasing at a healthy 10% per year but 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, water-soluble binders.
- Developed “Flushability Assessment”- voluntary, contains some vague language.

<http://www.inda.org/>

Flushability Test

Figure 1: Decision Tree for the use of the INDA/EDANA Flushability Assessment and for labeling products in accordance with the Code of Practice

INDA Logo's



Labels: the "Good"

Using water-based binders that readily disperse.



Placing INDA-standard DNF logo prominently (though still not on the front!)



Labels: the "Bad"



Labeling things "flushable" that do not satisfy INDA standard.

Above: Packaging. Below: After testing for 24 hours

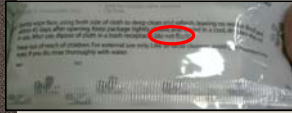


Manufacturing products likely to be flushed (feminine or hemorrhoid wipes) that are not dispersible.

Displaying "flushable" and non-flushable products mixed together at point of sale.

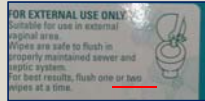


More “Bad”!

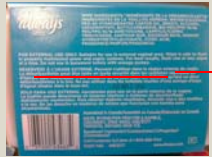


Placing disposal information only in fine print.

Using non-INDA standard DNF logos on packaging.



Fine print: qualifying number of wipes that can be “safely” flushed; differentiating between sewer and septic systems.

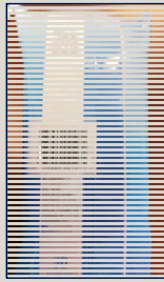


Labels: the “Ugly”



Packaging that positions, encourages non-flushable products to be flushed. (This product is not dispersible).

No disposal information whatsoever on package.



Products not compatible with plumbing and POTWs marketed as flushable.



Impacts of Non-Dispersibles on Waste Treatment Systems



Septic Systems



Septic Systems



Can Fill Up Septic Systems



Can Clog Pipes



Baby Wipe Removed from Clogged Pipe



Can Clog Manholes



Can Clog Pumps



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



Source: MWWCA

Non-Dispersibles and PWD

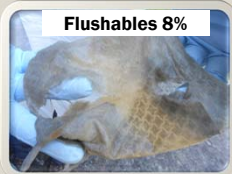
- Town of Gorham, ME
 - Weekly visits to several stations \$24,000 per year
 - Replace pumps \$50,000
- Westbrook, ME
 - \$3.8 million screenings upgrade at 2 pump stations
- Portland, ME
 - Visit CSO regulator 3 times/week \$16,000 per year



Screenings Sampling



2011 Test Results from Portland, Maine



Other: Household Wipes 4%, Cosmetic 3%, Medical 2%, Hands, Face and Body (HFB) 1%

Source: EPA 509

Solutions?



Upgrade Equipment

Chopper Pump



Grinder



Education

- Three P's
- PEE, POOP and Paper



Education

- Only Human Waste and Toilet Paper



Education

- STOP! BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU FLUSH!



Maybe those 'flushable' wipes aren't so flushable...







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.nonwovens-industry.com/issues/2012-04-sp-wipes/view_features/third-times-a-charm-for-flushable-wipes/#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*.

Voluntary Compliance



Contact Info



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What is Flushable?



Join us at 1:00 in Curriers
