

What the Flush?

You Might Be Surprised by What's Going Down the Toilet

The Responsible Flushing Alliance (RFA) went deep to find out what exactly is being flushed down pipes – and shouldn't be.

A collaboration between wastewater agencies and industry experts on the **largest domestic sewage collection study** to uncover **what's clogging sewer lines and equipment**:

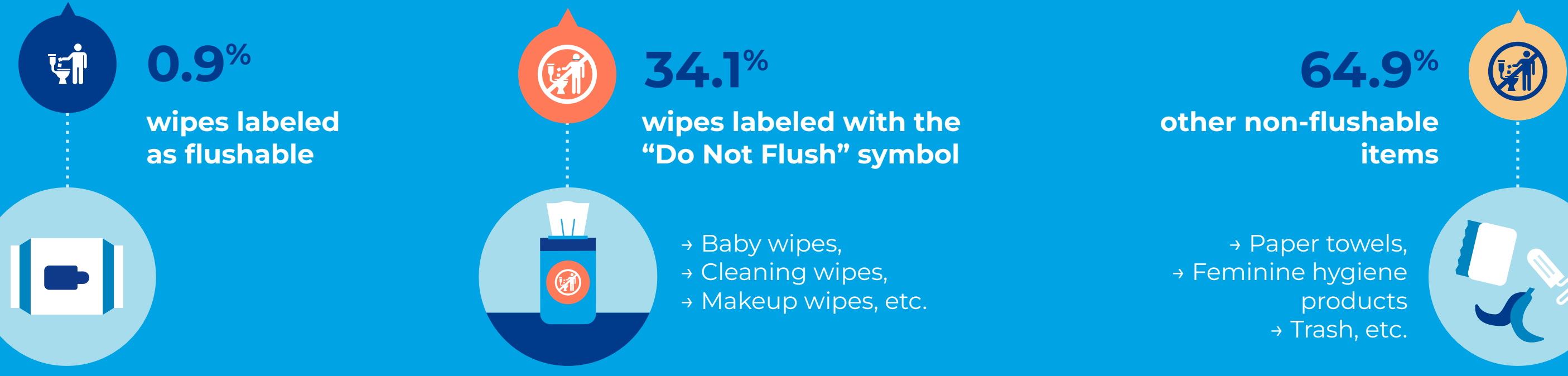


Collection took place at **two locations** during peak flow times.



So, What's Being Flushed?

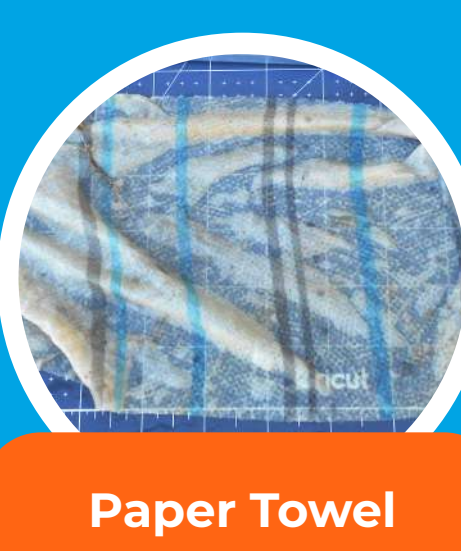
OF THE **1,745** ITEMS captured, sorted and documented:



Majority of **"Do Not Flush"** labeled wipes were still fully intact



All wipes labeled as **flushable** were in the process of breaking apart



Flushable Wipes vs. Non-Flushable Wipes: What's the Difference?



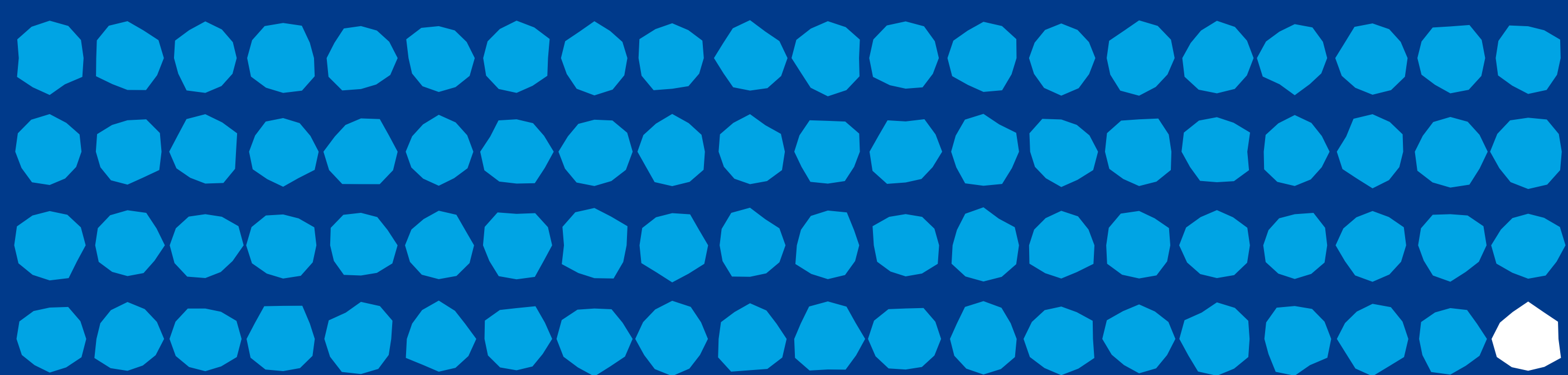
Made of short, **plant-based fibers** that breakdown easily in water similar to toilet paper



Made of long, often **plastic fibers** that are built for durability and do not disperse in water

What Can You Do to Help?

99% of materials collected from the wastewater treatment locations were **items not meant for flushing**.



Take these easy steps to **#FlushSmart** and help keep **non-flushable** materials out of wastewater systems:

1 Look for the **"Do Not Flush"** symbol

2 Read **disposal instructions** on packaging

3 When in doubt...**throw it out!**



To learn more about RFA and our **#FlushSmart** campaign, please visit us at www.flushsmart.org.

SOURCE: Kennedy-Jenks Report: California Sewage Collection Study Conducted in October 2023