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:

### So, What's Being Flushed?

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

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

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

### What Can You Do to Help?

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

1. **Read disposal instructions on packaging**
2. **Look for the “Do Not Flush” symbol**
3. **When in doubt… throw it out!**

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

- **Central Contra Costa Sanitary District** (Central San) in the greater San Francisco Bay Area in Northern California
- **Inland Empire Utilities Agency** (IEUA) in Southern California

You might be surprised by what's going down the toilet captured, sorted and documented:

- **1,745 items**
  - 0.9% wipes labeled as flushable
  - 34.1% other wipes labeled with the “Do Not Flush” symbol
  - 64.9% other items

- 1,745 items was 99% of the materials collected from wastewater treatment locations were items not meant for flushing.

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