

Wipes Vs Toilet Paper Demonstration

Materials:

- 3 jars
- Toilet paper, “flushable wipe”, baby wipe
- Whisks or lids for jars

Set Up:

- Fill each container at least halfway with water
- Add a piece of toilet paper to one jar, a flushable wipe to another jar, and a baby wipe to the third jar.
- Explain to groups that this shows why you shouldn't flush wipes, even ones that say flushable.
- Ask them what they observe
 - o They should notice a few of the following things
 - The toilet paper dissolves almost immediately (this is because it's pressed paper)
 - Even after vigorous shaking or mixing with the whisk neither wipe breaks down. This is because they are woven instead of pressed and made more like fabric. They usually contain some cotton, polyester and other materials that don't break down as quickly
 - Some flushable wipes will break down after being in the water for about 30 minutes to an hour, so they do eventually break down but they don't breakdown as quickly as toilet paper so they become an issue in the pipes where they stick to materials already stuck to in the pipes (like FOG) or get wrapped around the parts of the pumps that move wastewater to the plants.
 - o Why can they say flushable?- because do they flush, they won't clog your toilet, just cause an issue further down the pipe. Also, there's no regulations that define what “flushable means” and what can and can't be labeled as flushable.
- Remind participants to not treat their toilet like a trashcan and to only flush the 3 P's- Pee, Poop and paper. Lastly, if they mention using wipes, tell them we aren't saying they can't use the wipes, just to keep them out of the pipes and put them in their trashcan instead.

