



## TOWN OF BERLIN

### Water Control Commission

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To: All Berlin Water Control Commission Customers

The Berlin Water Control Commission (BWCC) provides both water and sewer services to its customers. We would like you to be aware that we are experiencing frequent problems with items that are flushed into the sewer system (causing expensive equipment failures!).

The following items\* SHOULD NOT be flushed into toilets:

- 1) Disposable Wipes: - Although flushable, wipes are not readily degradable and create problems with our grinder pump. Pump failures cost us time and money.
- 2) Dental Floss: - Made of nylon and does not degrade.
- 3) Contact Lenses: - Do not biodegrade and actually enter the environment through the treatment process.
- 4) Tampons/Feminine Products: - These do not readily degrade and can also cause damage to our pump.
- 5) Medications: - Should NEVER be flushed into the environmental system. There are periodic 'take-back' programs, or should be individually dispersed into the trash to be burned.
- 6) Kitty Litter: - Expands as much as 50,000 times its size (according to a New York Times article\*) and can create serious sewer blockages.
- 7) Condoms: - Should NEVER be flushed as they do not break down.
- 8) Facial Tissues, Paper Towels and Swabs: These items were never designed to readily break down and can accumulate.

Additionally, "**When in doubt, throw it out**" (in a trash can). If you are not sure something can be flushed without a serious impact - choose to throw it out rather than flushing it into the sewer system.

\* Information from a New York Times Article by Christina Caron Aug. 25, 2018

If you have questions, please call 860-828-7065 for assistance.