

## PWEA Position Statement

### ***Non-Flushable and Flushable Labelled Products***

Adopted by PWEA on February 14, 2019

#### **PWEA Mission Statement**

The mission of the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association (PWEA) is to enhance the knowledge and abilities of Pennsylvania's water quality professionals, promote sound sustainable water policies, and promote public awareness of the need to protect water resources.

- To prevent problems with sewers, pipe and toilet blockages plus the human and environmental cost of sewer flooding and pollution, the organizations signing this statement below agree that:
- Only the 3Ps – Pee, Poo and toilet Paper – should be flushed.
- Currently, all wipes and personal hygiene products should be clearly marked as “**Do Not Flush**” and be disposed of in the bin or trashcan.
- Wipes labelled “Flushable” based on passing a manufacturer’s trade association guidance document should be labelled “**Do Not Flush**” until there is a standard agreed by the water and wastewater industry.
- Manufacturers of wipes and personal hygiene products should give consumers clear and unambiguous information about appropriate disposal methods.
- Looking to the future, new innovations in materials might make it possible for certain products to be flushed, if they pass a technical standard which has been developed and agreed by the water and wastewater industry. Preferably this standard would be developed under the banner of the International Standards Organization (ISO).
- Key requirements for any standard include that the product:
  - Breaks into small pieces quickly;
  - Must not be buoyant;
  - Does not contain plastic or regenerated cellulose and only contains materials which will readily degrade in a range of natural environments
- *and in compliance with local legislative requirements*







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