**Experiment** 

# Keep wipes out of pipes

## Sydney WAT&R

### Did you know some people use the toilet like a rubbish bin?

Nearly one million people are flushing wet wipes and other items which don't break down. That's a problem for your pipes and ours.





Try this experiment and discover what breaks down and what doesn't.

Be prepared to be surprised.

#### What you'll need...

- 5 clear glass/plastic jars + lids
- Wet wipe
- Facial tissue
- 2 sheets toilet paper
- Coin
- Small toy
- . Eacial win
- Dental floss

- · Cotton bud
- · Tap water
- · Masking tape + pen
- Stopwatch



#### Let's do this!

- Label your jars 'tissue paper', 'wet wipes', 'toilet paper', 'facial wipe' + 'common things'.
- 2. Fill the jars up with tap water till three quarters full.
- 3. Place items in the jars.
- 4. Shake for one minute.
- 5. Compare the jars.



#### Make a prediction!

What items will breakdown? Why or why not?







#### What happened?

Was I right? What didn't break down? What happens if I shake some more? What can I flush?

Would you like to see how our experiment turned out? **Visit sydneywater.com.au/education** 

## Did you know?

## We worry about what you put down your toilet everyday... and you should too!

The impact on your home and the environment can be dramatic, with overflows caused by sewer blockages impacting local creeks, rivers and even beaches.



**500** tonnes of wipes are removed from our system every year.



A blockage caused by flushed wet wipes



could cost you over a \$1,000 to fix in plumbing bills.

#### By flushing only the 3 Ps you can make a big difference!







Poo



Toilet Pape



#### There's lots to learn about water!

Visit sydneywater.com.au/education

#### Are you a high school, tertiary or community group?

Visit sydneywater.com.au/tours to book your behind the scenes experience.