

# RFA MOST WANTED: HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?



## SPECIAL REPORT:

The infamous Clog Monster is on the rise—clogging toilets and causing costly damage to homes and municipal wastewater systems. The U.S.' Environmental Protection Agency estimates up to **75,000 sewer overflow incidents** occur every year, dumping 850 billion gallons of raw sewage. The Responsible Flushing Alliance (RFA) is working to bring down these culprits that, when flushed down the toilet, can wreak untold havoc on plumbing.



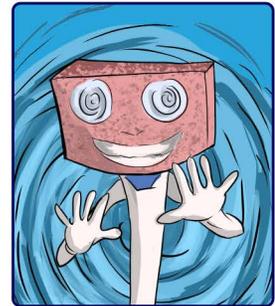
### THE CLOG MONSTER

He's the mastermind behind sewage backups. Studies show that 98% of materials that clog wastewater treatment plants are non-flushable items. The Clog Monster lives in our sewars feeding off of these. Let's put an end to his reign!



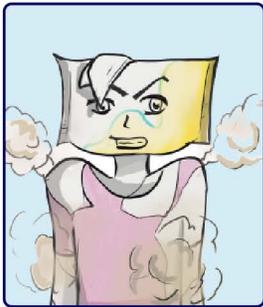
### GENERAL CLEANING WIPE

This disgraced general joined the Clog Monster in the pursuit of clogging toilets and sewers across the country. Wipes don't break down like toilet paper. Let's bring the general down and send cleaning wipes where they belong—in the trash.



### TOILET CLEANING TRICKSTER

This villain masquerades in different forms -- as toilet wipes or disposable sponges on the end of cleaning wands. If you see the "Do Not Flush" symbol, they are not safe for flushing. Defy the Trickster's hypnotic powers, and put those cleaning materials in the trash.



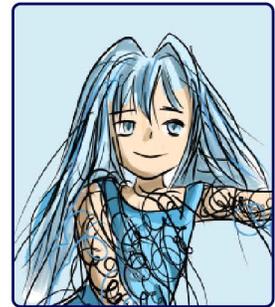
### DUSTING WIPE DELINQUENT

This impressionable youth is reported to be General Cleaning Wipes No. 2 in training—being groomed to take over the posse and carry on their ring of toilet terror. Sewer backups can be a threat to public health. So let's all help to keep our waterways clear of wipes.



### MEDICAL MOBSTER

The Medical Mobster lives in the dark, seedy caverns of your plumbing and sewer systems, feeding off of old medicine and medical supplies. Follow official guidelines when disposing of unused medicines and other medical waste.



### DENTAL FLOSSER

Capitalizing on the public's heightened awareness of gum health, the Dental Flosser is a top offender in causing clogs and backups. When flushed down the toilet, floss gets tangled up with other debris and creates things called fatbergs — large, cement-like masses that cause blockages.



[www.flushsmart.org](http://www.flushsmart.org)

Remember that when sighted,  
**don't flush** these items, or you'll end  
up with your own Clog Monster.

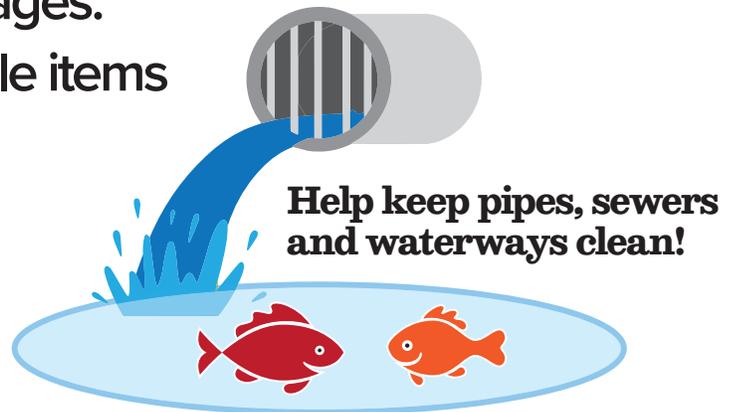


# DO NOT FLUSH



## Down the Toilet

- Check labels on wipes packages.
- Toss plastic and non-flushable items in the trash — not the toilet.
- When in doubt, throw it out!



DO NOT FLUSH

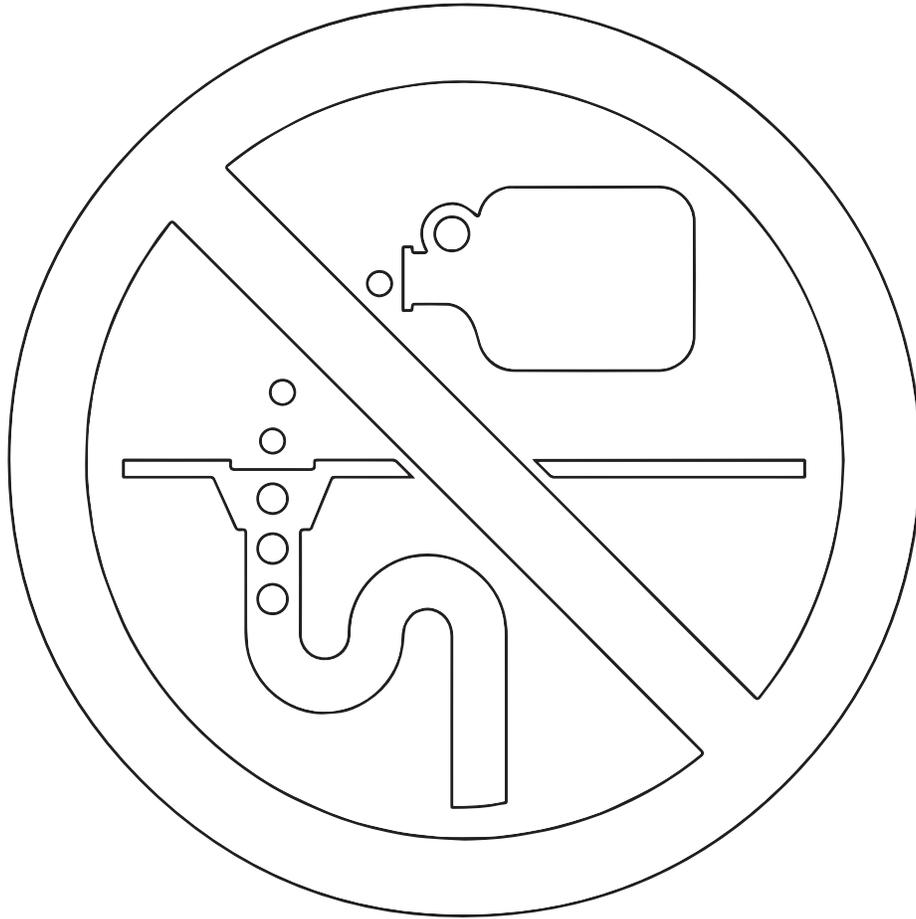
Look for the **DO NOT FLUSH** symbol and never flush disposable wipes or trash down the toilet.



**DO NOT POUR** Fat, Oils and Grease down the drain.

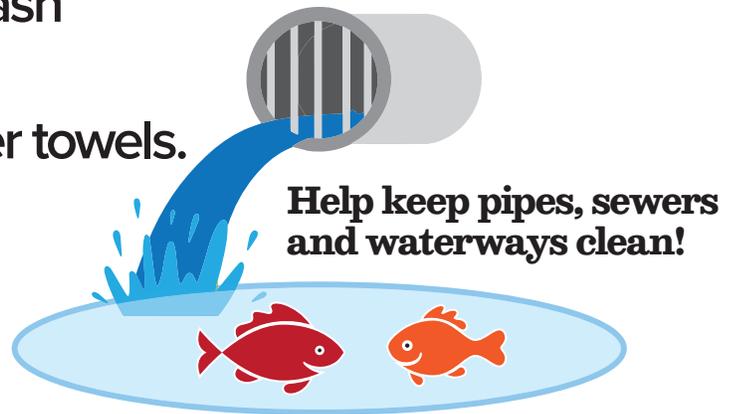


# DO NOT POUR



## Down the Drain

- Scrape your plate into the trash or compost before rinsing.
- Wipe greasy pans with paper towels.
- Cool cooking oil, then can it!



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**DO NOT POUR** Fat, Oils and Grease down the drain.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Make-Your-Own “Clog Monsters”



## PREPARATION:

Collect empty toilet paper tubes and household items (see list). Leave wipes out to dry overnight. You may wish to measure and cut colored construction paper in advance (see step 1).

## MATERIALS:

- Toilet paper tubes
- White and colored construction paper
- Paint and paint brushes (optional)
- Markers, scissors, glue and glue sticks
- Tissue paper or party streamers
- Fabric scraps, pipe cleaners
- String or yarn

## HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

- Baby wipes or cleaning wipes (dried out overnight)
- Dental floss, cotton swabs, small bandages, cotton balls
- Toothpaste caps, plastic bottle tops, straws from juice boxes
- Paper towels and plastic wrappers, cut up into small pieces

## OVERVIEW:

Reuse empty toilet paper tubes in creative ways! Make cardboard “Clog Monsters” for a fun craft activity. For an extra eco-lesson, decorate them with clog-causing items that should NOT be flushed down the toilet. Use the Talking Points for reference.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wrap your tube in a piece of construction paper, cut down to the same size. Stick it in place with glue or tape. Or, paint the tube and let it dry.
2. Make your own recyclable “googly eyes” with white construction paper and a marker. Cut them out and glue them on.
3. Draw other features (eyebrows, mouth, etc.) on your monster face with a marker.
4. Cut out white triangles for fangs and glue in place.
5. Now add some small bits that represent disposable wipes and trash that should NOT be flushed down the toilet (see Household Items list).
6. Stuff dried wipes into the tube to make “hair” or hang one over the back like a cape. Make cotton-swab antennae or toothpaste-cap horns. Let your imagination run wild!



DO NOT FLUSH

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# Make Your Own “Clog Monsters”<sup>continued</sup>



## EXTENSION IDEAS:

- Put on a puppet show with your Clog Monsters
- Take a group picture of all your Clog Monsters, upload it to a computer, and make a mini poster for your home or school bathroom.

## TALKING POINTS:

What’s a Clog Monster made of? Trash, plastic, paper towels, and other things that should not be flushed down the toilet. This includes baby wipes and any wipes with the Do Not Flush symbol on the package.



**DO NOT FLUSH**

## HERE’S WHAT THE SYMBOL LOOKS LIKE.

When you see this on a wipes package, should you flush the wipe in the toilet?

**NO!**

Where should you put it?

**IN THE TRASH!**

## WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL?

These small items can form clogs that cause big problems. “Non-flushables” can break toilets, damage sewers and harm wildlife habitats like lakes, rivers, oceans and streams.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Sea Creatures or School-of-Fish Mobile

**AGE RANGE:** Grades 3–5

## PREPARATION:

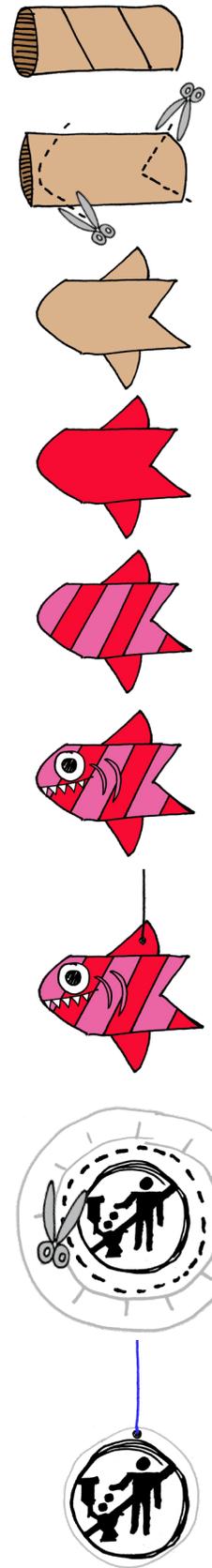
Recycle empty cardboard tubes from toilet paper and paper towel rolls. Collect them in advance and encourage children to bring them in from home.

## MATERIALS:

- Cardboard toilet paper tubes (or paper towel tubes, cut down to size)
- Paper plates (recyclable or compostable if possible)
- Do Not Flush symbol (printable sheet attached)
- Acrylic paints and paint brushes
- Colored construction paper, cardboard scraps or foam sheets
- Gift-wrapping paper scraps
- Sequins (optional)
- Tissue paper or party streamers
- Pencil, black marker, glitter pens
- Scissors, single-hole punch and glue
- String, yarn and paperclips
- Wire hangers, recycled paper towel tubes, or sticks for mobile base
- Ruler (for Octopus extension)

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Flatten your toilet roll tube.
2. Cut the corners on one end to make a rounded shape for the fish's head.
3. On the other end, cut out a triangle to make the tail.
4. Use the triangle cut-out to make fins and tape them in place.
5. Paint your fish and let it dry.
6. Decorate it with colorful scraps of wrapping paper, tissue and/or party streamers.
7. Make fish scales with tissue or wrapping paper scraps (optional). Make a pattern and glue them on, overlapping as you go.
8. Make "googly eyes" with white paper and a marker. (No plastic required!) Glue them onto each side of the face. Draw a mouth and gills.
9. Add some crazy shark or piranha teeth — or whatever you like!
10. Cut out the two Do Not Flush symbols. Glue one onto a paper plate and cut it out. Now glue the second copy onto the back side. Punch out a hole at the top and thread it with yarn or string.



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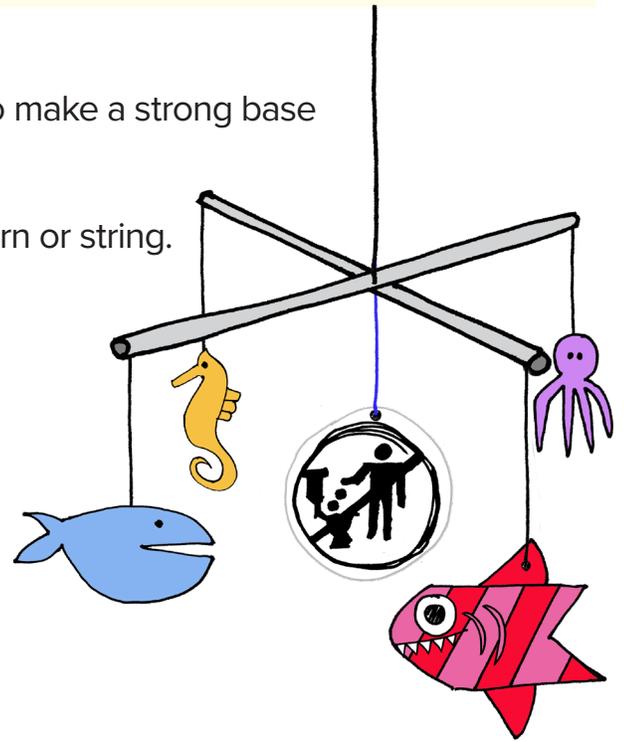
DO NOT POUR Fat, Oils and Grease down the drain.



# Sea Creatures or School-of-Fish Mobile continued

## MAKE YOUR MOBILE BASE:

1. Use recycled paper towel tubes, or a wire hanger to make a strong base for your mobile.
2. Suspend the Do Not Flush symbol from its center.
3. Tie your fish and sea creatures to your base with yarn or string.  
Experiment to see how they hang and balance.



**DO NOT FLUSH**



**DO NOT FLUSH**



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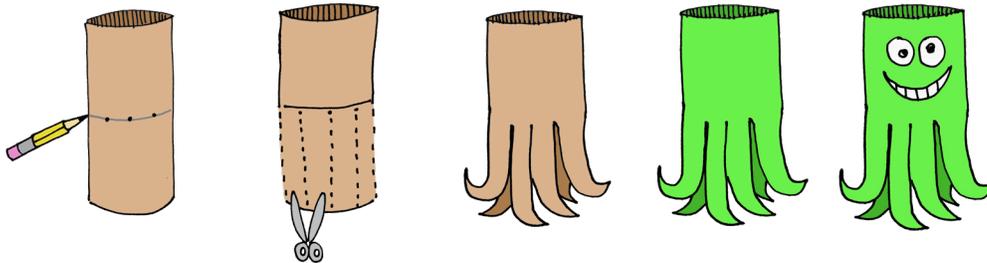
# Sea Creatures or School-of-Fish Mobile continued

## EXTENSION:

Add some sea creatures to your fish mobile. Follow the instructions below or make up your own creative designs using your imagination!

### OCTOPUS:

1. Use a pencil to draw a horizontal line around the middle of your cardboard tube. The top half will be the body, the bottom half will be the 8 legs.
2. Flatten the tube gently. Use a ruler to measure and mark 3 points: the center of the front side and the points between the center and the flattened edges.
3. Draw straight lines up to the 3 points marked at the halfway point.
4. Turn the roll around and do the same on the opposite side.
5. Cut along the 6 lines plus the 2 edges. Now you have 8 legs! Bend the legs outwards.
6. Use paint or thick markers to color your octopus all over.
7. Stick on paper googly eyes, draw a mouth, and decorate as you like.
8. Glue on some clog-causing trash!



### JELLYFISH:

1. Cut a paper plate in half.
2. Make a row of holes with a hole punch along the straight edge.
3. Tie bunches of yarn or slices of crepe paper streamers through each hole to make dangling tentacles.

### TALKING POINTS:

Toilet clogs lead to sewer backups; sewer backups can cause expensive plumbing repairs and water pollution (which is bad for both humans and wildlife).

What should never be flushed down the toilet? Trash, plastic, paper towels, baby wipes, disinfecting and cleaning wipes, and any wipes with the Do Not Flush symbol on the package.

What's the big deal? These small items can stick together and form clogs that cause big problems. "Non-flushables" can break toilets, damage sewers, and harm wildlife habitats like lakes, rivers, oceans and streams.



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