



WORLD TOILET DAY IS NOVEMBER 19 Everyone Needs a Place to Go

Of all the things we take for granted, having a safe and reliable sanitation system is high among them. Yet according to the World Health Organization, some 3.4 billion people throughout the world still live without safely-managed sanitation services, contributing to disease and death that largely affect children.

World Toilet Day, an observance of the United Nations held annually on November 19, is designed to raise awareness of people living without access to safely managed sanitation. Visit <https://www.un.org/en/observances/toilet-day> for more information. But it's also a great time to educate ourselves about a growing nationwide problem that is compromising the integrity of our own sanitation treatment systems.

From baby wipes to a bulb syringe, from makeup to mop heads, from dentures to diapers. Those are just a sampling of items discovered in sewer pipes and wastewater processing facilities - items that cause backups and breaks, ultimately leading to costly repairs at taxpayer expense. In addition, so-called "flushable wipes" have become a major problem. Workers often have to clean out check valves on a daily basis, removing hundreds of

pounds of "gunk" that, left unchecked, could significantly damage the sewer system.

To Flush Or Not To Flush? Only Flush The "Three Ps"

As illustrated by the types of items

retrieved from clogged toilets and governmental water treatment systems, the things people flush range from surprising to unbelievable. In contrast, the types of things safe for flushing can be easily understood by this simple phrase: Only flush the three Ps - Pee, Poop and (toilet) Paper. The first two Ps are obvious, but the third one is an area of growing concern with the popularity of various wipes and the degree to which these are truly safe for our home plumbing and community sewer systems.

Toilet paper is designed to break down and fall apart quickly when it contacts water and is agitated, which allows it to dissolve well when it flows through your pipes and enters the sewer or septic system. In contrast, most wipes are made from synthetic or blended fibers that take a long time to break down, causing snags and clogs and accumulating to form major blockages. This can be easily demonstrated by dropping a sheet of toilet paper and a single wipe in separate glasses of water, side-by-side. After only a few seconds, the toilet paper will fall apart in your hand, while the wipe will likely maintain its form even after trying to pull it apart.

Bad Flushing Habits Can Cost You Big Bucks Later

"Just Because It Can Be Flushed, Doesn't Mean It Should." That's the tagline of the "Get FlushSmart" campaign sponsored by the Responsible Flushing Alliance, an independent, nonprofit trade association committed to educating consumers and reducing damage to critical sewage infrastructure. Visit <https://www.flushsmart.org> for more information. The Alliance says that, on average, it costs between \$300-\$450 to repair home plumbing system damage caused by clogs, and from \$4,000-\$15,000 if a whole-house re-pipe is needed. According to the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, wipes add almost half a billion dollars per year in operating costs for US water utilities - costs that will likely be borne by taxpayers. Visit <https://www.nacwa.org/home> for more information.

Are Flushable Wipes Really Safe To Flush?

Whether a wipe is marked "do not flush" or "flushable," most experts agree they aren't good for our water supplies and the systems that treat them. Just because a wipe fits inside your toilet's siphon jet (that's the small opening at the bottom of your toilet bowl that creates the "flushing power"), doesn't mean it will disintegrate once it disappears from your view. The International Water Services Flushability Group, comprised of water services providers and the associations that represent them, have created specifications for products marketed as truly safe when flushed down the

toilet. Visit <https://www.iwsfg.org> for more information. While some states have passed laws with respect to labeling, there is currently no state law in Florida nor federal standard that flushable wipes meet specific standards in order to be labeled as such.

The Bottom Line

Stick only to the Three Ps when it comes to being confident about what's safe to flush down your toilet. Recognizing the importance of this issue to customers and communities, the Florida Governmental Utility Authority is developing an educational campaign that will be launched in the months ahead. Details will be announced at <https://www.fgua.com>.

The Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) owns and operates almost 100 water and wastewater utility systems in 15 Florida counties, providing service to more than 120,000 customer connections. Counties served by FGUA include Citrus, Hillsborough, Lake, Marion, Orange, Pasco, Polk, Seminole, Hardee, Lee, Alachua, Flagler, Putnam, Volusia and Nassau.



Popp's Motel is
NOW RENTING
FURNISHED STUDIO & 1 BEDROOM APTS
Right on the Bay!



Long Term, starting at \$2100/mo.
with utilities included.

Call 305-852-5201
for appointment to see

MM 95.5 KEY LARGO • FAMILY RUN SINCE 1951

The UPS Store

UPS, USPS, Shipping & Stamps
Personal & Business Mailbox Rental
Amazon & "Happy Returns"

Dropoff Center

Wide Format Printing & Copying

Notary & Fingerprinting
by appt. only M-F 10am-4pm

OPEN 6 DAYS: Monday-Friday 7:30am-6pm • Saturday 9am-2:30pm

101425 Overseas Hwy
TRADEWINDS PLAZA
Key Largo, FL 33037

305.453.4877

fax: 305.453.4878
store4181@theupsstore.com

\$5 OFF ANY SERVICE
Excluding Notary & Fingerprinting

Check Out What's Happening at the Upper Keys Libraries!

November is a time where we spend those extra few moments celebrating family. Don't miss what the library has to offer. from family storytime to makerspace activities, there is always something happening!

KEY LARGO BRANCH LIBRARY

1st Friday Concert, Nov. 6th hosts Daniel Gallup

Adult Craft, Nov. 12th will be creating a holiday table centerpiece.

Wednesday nights exciting Reel Deal: Movie Club, every 3rd Wednesday at 5pm Oct. to Apr.

Cuentame con Café, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month.

Kids Programming every afternoon Monday through Friday.

Plus: Art Classes, Gaming, LEGO, Tech Support, Sit & Sew, STEM Lab, Poetry, Story Time, Creative Writing and more... follow the link to find out!

MM 101.4 OCEANSIDE • TRADEWINDS PLAZA

Scan the QR
or use the link
for loads of information
about these and
many other free
activities at your
branch libraries!



bit.ly/upper-keys-calendar



ISLAMORADA BRANCH LIBRARY

Celebrating our Diamond Jubilee with a speaker Tuesday evenings:

Nov 3rd, Corey Malcom, FI Keys History Center historian

Nov 10th, Islamorada Area State Parks, Lignumvitea Key

Nov 17th, Rita Troxel & Maria Chavez, the filming of "Bloodline"

Nov 24th, Jerry Lorenz, History of Conservation in the Upper Keys

Kids Programming, daily M-F.

Plus: STEM Stuff, D&D, Tech Support, Gaming, Book Club, Art, Creative Writing, Crafting, Homeschool Activities and more...

MM 81.8 BAYSIDE ON OVERSEAS HWY.

Key Largo Branch Library *Free!*

Concert Series

First
FRIDAYS
6-7 PM



Oct 2	Brian Smalley
Nov 6	Daniel Gallup
Dec 4	Mike Fuller
Jan 8	Bing Futch
Feb 5	Patchouli
Mar 5	The Kennedys
Apr 2	Sarah McCulloch

Brought to you by the **Friends of Key Largo Library**
For more information inquire with staff

