



Ecumenical Water Network

<http://water.oikoumene.org>

Don't flush and forget!

Out of sight, out of mind? What we flush down the toilet can seriously affect our environment. Some simple recommendations on what to do and what *not* to do to help protect our water and environment:

Bathroom

Don't use your toilet as a bin! Never flush hygiene items like sanitary pads, tampons and cotton buds as they cannot be treated and may block sewers (as well as your own drains). Diapers, condoms, cleaning rags and facial wipes also do not belong in your toilet.

All of the above items should be disposed of safely in the bin. Flushing rubbish can cause blockages and hinder the treatment process, depending on your sewerage treatment system it may also end up on your next riverbank or beach!

According to the British Bag It and Bin It campaign the Marine Conservation Society Beachwatch Campaign in 2003 collected over 21,000 items of "Sewage Related Debris" (SRD) accounting for 7.8% of the total waste collected!

Hazardous chemicals

Paints, pesticides, kerosene, cleaning solvents and other chemicals can seriously damage the environment. Try to find out if and where there is a municipal facility that will accept this kind of dangerous household waste.

Of course, the best thing is to look for alternatives to hazardous chemicals in the first place. Try to find environmentally friendly products whenever possible and don't buy more than you actually need.

Kitchen

Pouring fat, oil, and grease down your sink can clog up the drains even if you mix them with hot water or washing-up liquid. You should let them solidify and then bin them. Food scraps should also go in the bin or on the compost.

Read more:

[Water – Dos and Don'ts](#) (Environment Canada)

[A Toilet is not a Rubbish Bin](#) (Melbourne Water)

[Take care of what you flush away](#) (Thames Water)

[Bag It and Bin It Campaign](#)



The Ecumenical Water Network is a network of churches and church-related organizations that promotes the preservation, responsible management and equitable distribution of water for all, based on the understanding that water is a gift of God and a fundamental human right. The Secretariat of the Ecumenical Water Network is located at the World Council of Churches in Geneva.