



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2, 2020

Global Committee of Water Experts Presents Consumer Flushability Guidelines

Logo Unveiled to Clarify Products that Meet Internationally Agreed Upon Flushability Standards

(Ottawa, Ontario) - The growth in the number of wipes and related products labelled “flushable” over the past 15 years has been a multi-million dollar headache for drinking water and clean water utilities around the globe.

In the absence of a sector wide definition of flushability, a group of international water experts have developed a Publicly Available Specification (PAS). The PAS aligns with the key aspects required for materials to be compatible with sewerage infrastructure as defined through the International Standards Organisation (ISO).

The PAS was developed by the International Water Service Flushability Group (IWSFG), a group formed in 2017 following the publication of the [International water industry position statement on non-flushable and 'flushable' labelled products](#). The IWSFG is pleased to release the 2020 PAS as a revision to the 2018 version following a critical review process.

Drinking water and clean water utilities have now clearly stated their position on what makes a product suitable to be flushed down the toilet. The position includes criteria for determining material suitable for toilet flushing, along with appropriate labelling requirements.

“The internationally agreed upon specification is a great step forward,” says the Chair of the International Water Services Flushability Group (IWSFG), Dr. Greg Ryan. “The PAS’s documents provide a base from which Canada can develop their own flushability standards, using a specification derived by water utility representatives with expert knowledge of the sewerage system and what is necessary for its protection”, said Robert Haller Canadian Water and Wastewater Association Executive Director.

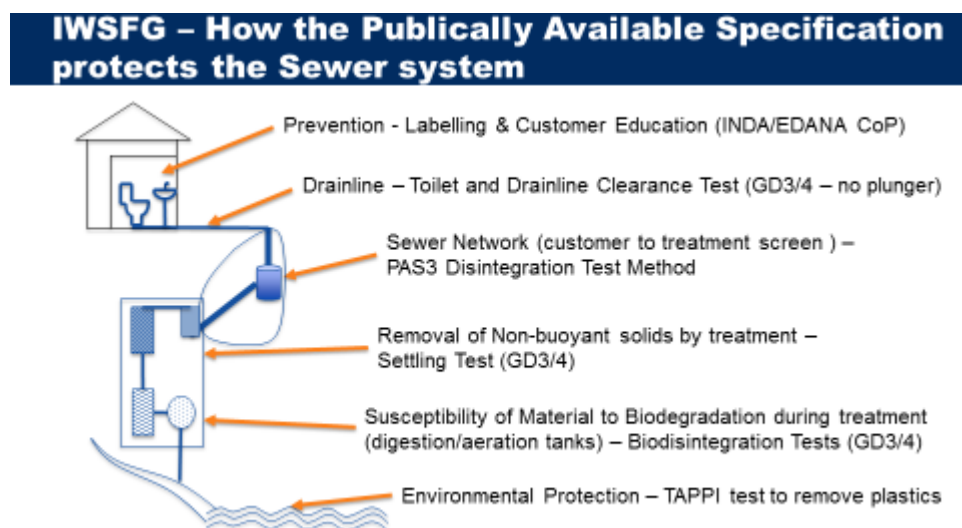
The IWSFG specification is supported by national water utility organisations in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America.

The six member countries of the IWSFG have established and agreed to specifications that clearly define the way products such as wipes should be tested to determine whether they are flushable. This is a global initiative because it is a global problem.

While the IWSFG specifications are a major step forward, it is up to individual countries, particularly their water utilities and citizens, to determine if and how they will be adopted. Ideally, they will be adopted to form a National Standard on Flushability within Canada. This would ensure not only a clear definition of what is flushable, but also provide clarity on what label consumers should look for to ensure the product meets the criteria.

In the absence of such a national standard, the IWSFG recommends that all toilet users adopt the approach that only the “3P’s - pee, poop and (toilet) paper” should be put in the toilet. The IWSFG criteria acknowledges other items are flushable when they pass the testing specification. Consumers are then able to make an informed decision on what to flush.

It is important not to treat the toilet as a garbage can. Other items of recent concern being flushed are gloves, masks, paper towel, condoms, feminine hygiene products, facial tissue and fats, oils, and grease.



This testing specification will allow for clear methods that will assist manufacturers to properly test and label their flushable products and enable consumers in understanding “Toilets are not garbage cans”. To communicate a product’s ability to be flushed, the IWSFG has created a logo that manufacturers can use on their products to clearly identify to users that the product has passed the IWSFG flushability criteria.

The public should look to only flush the 3P's or products with the IWSFG logo.



The IWSFG/CWWA notes that Albaad claims to have the first flushable product that passes the IWSFG Flushability Specification with its “HydroFine S2F”.

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