



# WHAT NOT TO FLUSH! PREVENT PUMP STATION BLOCKAGES





# WHY DOES A PUMP STATION GET BLOCKED?



Blockages in pump systems and wastewater networks that move waste away from housing estates are, unfortunately, very common. Below are a collection of the items that we frequently see blocking up drains, damaging pump equipment, and causing potential risks to environmental and human welfare.

# HOW SHOULD WASTE PRODUCTS BE DISPOSED OF?

## ⊗ Medicines and medical equipment

Medical equipment should not be disposed of down the drain. You should take unused medicines to a pharmacist for safe disposal and medical equipment should be disposed of sensibly.

## ⊗ Fat, oil, grease

These products tend to cool down, separate from water and coagulate within the pump station's chamber. Fats, oils and greases can encase the pump and floats, causing blockages and pump failure. They can also form large solid blocks and slabs that stop the pump station from operating.

## ⊗ Wet wipes, nappies, sanitary towels, incontinence materials, soft toys, tennis balls etc.

It may seem obvious to some but it is amazing what gets flushed down the loo from time to time, causing blockages within pump stations. Even so-called disposable nappies and sanitary towels do not degrade fully. Instead, they form a mass of stringy ragging and will lead to a malfunction and pump station blockages.

It is best to dispose of these items by other means; they should not be flushed down the toilet. Even if the packaging states "flushable", this only means it will fit down the toilet, it doesn't mean it won't block up the pipe or the pump!

**Pump stations are designed to take sewage/wastewater and toilet paper only. Anything else will likely lead to blockages and pump station malfunction, which in turn will have financial consequences.**



**THE FOLLOWING MUST NOT BE DISCHARGED INTO DRAINS**

**SANITARY ITEMS**

**WET WIPES**

**CLOTHS / RAGS**

**NAPPIES**

**NEEDLES / SYRINGES**



# HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PUMP STATION NEEDS ATTENTION?

- ① Alarm will sound on the control panel
- ② Beacon on control panel will flash
- ③ High-level alarm on control panel will sound
- ④ Tripped pump light will turn on
- ⑤ Sewage will come out of the manhole

## COMMON MISDIAGNOSIS

### ⊗ Toilet is blocked

First, check your control panel. If there isn't an alarm on the control panel, it is likely to be a fault in-house, not with the pump.

### ⊗ Strong smell from manhole or toilet

First, find the source of the smell and check the control panel. If there isn't an alarm on the control panel, it is likely to be a blocked pipe.

**If there is an issue between the pump station and the toilet, call your local plumber and drain maintenance provider for assistance.**



**Dura Pump Limited** Boughton Fair Lane,  
Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7RT

**Call** 01604 648 800

**Email** [mail@durapump.co.uk](mailto:mail@durapump.co.uk)

**Visit** [www.durapump.co.uk](http://www.durapump.co.uk)

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