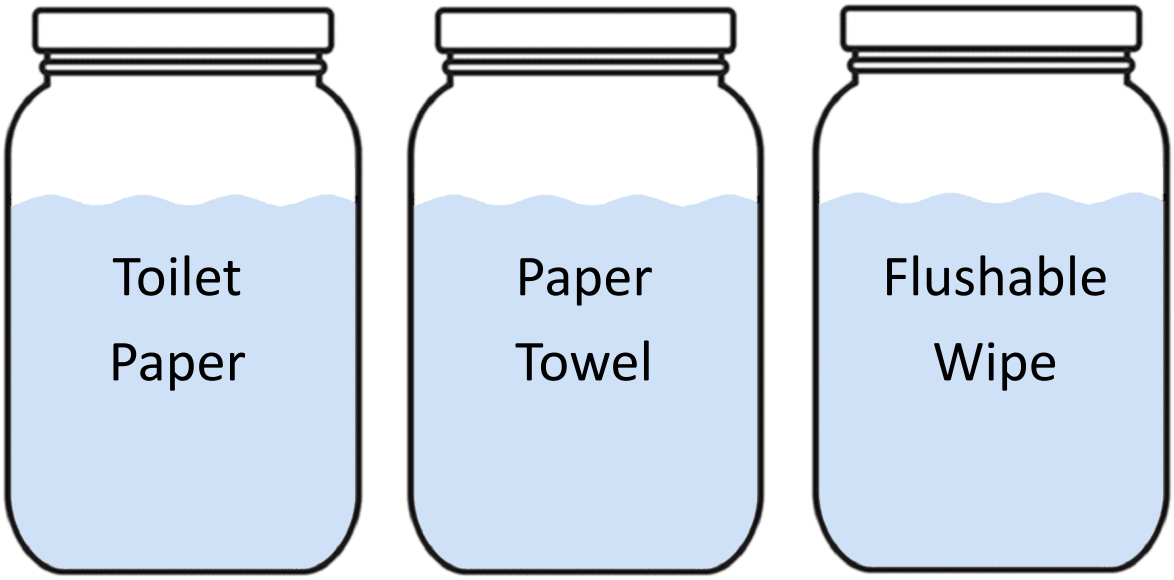
The Jar Experiment



The Jar Experiment:

1. Fill three jars or bottles with tap water.
2. In the first jar, add one square (one piece) of toilet paper.
3. In the second jar, add half a piece of a paper towel.
4. In the third jar, add any type of wipe such as a flushable wipe, baby wipe, or disinfecting wipe.
5. Close each jar with a lid.
6. Shake each jar.

Questions:

1. Which of these materials breaks apart in the water?_____

2. Which of these materials do not break apart in the water?_____

3. Which of these materials do you think could clog the pipes in your house and in the sewer?

_____

4. Which do you think should be flushed down the toilet, and why? _____

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For more information contact: Water.Conservation@raleighnc.gov

ANSWERS

1. Toilet paper
2. Paper towel and wipe
3. The paper towel and the wipe could clog the pipes in your house or sewer pipes, because these materials do not break down easily in water. These materials could become stuck in bends in the pipes or cling to grease buildup, causing clogs that lead to sewer backups and/or spills.
4. Toilet paper should be flushed down the toilet. Toilet paper was designed to break down in pipes and sewers. Other paper products such as facial tissues, paper towels, wipes, and even flushable wipes do not break down as easily as toilet paper and thus cause clogs. Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down the toilet.