

Can you help us Stop the Block?

Each year homes and gardens get flooded because the pipes and sewers underneath our feet get blocked up. This is because people put things down loos, sinks and drains that they should put in the bin instead.

Only the three Ps go down the loo – Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper! And only water goes down sinks and drains.

We're on the lookout for budding #UUBlockBusters to help us Stop the Block! Can you help us by finding the answers to the following questions?

Want to find out more? Check out our hints and tips on how to avoid blockages at: unitedutilities.com/stoptheblock

1 What are the only three things that should be put down the loo? (Hint – they all begin with the letter P!).

Answer – Pee, Poo and Paper.

2 Can you flush baby wipes, cleaning wipes and make-up wipes down the loo?

- A. Yes.
- B. Only the ones that say 'biodegradable' or 'environmentally-friendly' on them.
- C. No. Even wipes that claim to be flushable can cause blockages in the sewers so we always say only flush the 3Ps – that's Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper.

Answer - C

3 Where should you put single-use toiletries like cotton buds, cotton wool, nappies and dental floss?

- A. Down the loo – it's got a big hole in it.
- B. In the bin only – flushing these items down the loo can cause blockages and flooding!
- C. Throw it out the window.

Answer – B, and definitely not C!

4 Where should you pour fats, grease and oil when you've finished cooking and you're doing the washing up?

- A. Down the plughole in the sink.
- B. Down the plughole in the bath.
- C. In the bin.
- D. Down the drain outside your home.

Answer – C. Wait until the oils have gone cold and pour/scrape into a heat resistant, sealable container and then scrape into the bin. If you have a large amount of used cooking oil, check out your local council's recycling centre as many have recycling facilities for used oils/grease.

5 What happens if you pour fats, oils and grease down the sink or down the drain outside your house?

- A. They go cold, harden and can block your pipes and the sewers.
- B. They get stuck to other things in the sewer, like wet wipes, and form fatbergs.
- C. They can cause flooding in your house, garden and in the streets.

Answer – all of them!

6 How many homes and gardens in the North West get flooded each year because of blocked pipes and sewers?

- A. 0
- B. Only a few.
- C. Hundreds.
- D. Thousands.

Answer – D – about 6,000 a year. Even if your house hasn't been affected, it's advisable to keep pipes and drains blockage-free. Sometimes blockages and flooding can even affect neighbouring properties so it's a good idea to look after pipes, drains, sewers and keep the neighbours on good terms!

