

# EXPERIMENT THREE - PIPES

Think  
before  
you  
flush



## EQUIPMENT:

2 x straws, clear if possible  
2 x narrow funnels  
Stopwatch  
2 x clear cups

1 x Wet wipes, facial wipes  
or baby wipes  
1 x cleansing pads  
Ruler

## PROCEDURE:

1. Get two straws, two funnels and two clear cups
2. Pour water in to each funnel and through each straw, time the movement of water
3. Measure the amount of water that flows in to the clear containers
4. Stuff the cleansing pad and wipe in to one straw
5. Pour water through each straw, time the movement of water
6. Measure the amount of water that flows in to the clear containers
7. Note the difference in time and the amount of water that flows through
8. Now ask the children to imagine it was not clean water in the straws, that the straws are toilet pipes and the funnel is a toilet

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- The timing of the flow of water through the straws in step 2 will be even
- The amount of water in the containers in step 3 will be even
- The timing of the flow of water through the straws in step 5 will not be even. The straws with the wipes and cleansing pads will slow down the flow of water
- The amount of water in the containers in step 6 will not be even
- The amount of water that flows in to the container from the straw with the funnel will be much less than the other straw



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[www.thinkbeforeyouflush.org](http://www.thinkbeforeyouflush.org)



Think Before You Flush is operated by An Taisce's Clean Coasts programme and is supported by Irish Water

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## WHAT WE LEARN!



Products such as cleansing pads and wipes slow down the flow of water

The same happens in pipes leading from the toilet to the wastewater treatment plant to the ocean. This leads to blockages, these pipe blockages cost a lot of money to fix and can result in blocked toilets



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