

Think Before You Flush – Fatberg Competition 2026

Terms and Conditions

1. Theme:

Entrants are invited to create a model fatberg showing what can happen when unsuitable items, such as wet wipes, are flushed down the toilet and enter the wastewater system.

The Think Before You Flush Fatberg Competition is organised by Clean Coasts, a programme of An Taisce, as part of the Think Before You Flush campaign in partnership with Uisce Éireann.

2. Eligibility:

The competition is open to primary schools in the Republic of Ireland. Participating pupils must be aged 8 years or over. Pupils may enter as a class. Entries must be submitted by a teacher or another authorised member of school staff via the competition registration form.

3. Permissions:

Schools are responsible for obtaining any permissions required for pupils to participate. If an identifiable pupil can be seen or heard in an entry, the school must confirm that the necessary parent or guardian permissions are in place and that the pupil has been informed in an age-appropriate way. Pupils do not need to appear in the entry video.

4. Original work:

The model and video submitted must be the participating class' own work.

5. Materials and safety:

Models may be made from clean craft, reused or recycled materials. Schools are responsible for supervision and for ensuring the activity is safe and suitable for participating pupils.

6. Submission:

Schools must submit a video of no more than 30 seconds showing the completed model and explaining the idea behind it. Entries may be emailed to TBYF@antaisce.org or sent to that address using [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com). Please use the subject line *Fatberg Competition 2026*.

7. Closing date:

Entries must be received by 5 pm on Friday 23 October 2026.

8. Judging:

Entries will be assessed on understanding of the Think Before You Flush message, creativity and originality, teamwork and presentation and visual impact. Video production quality will not form part of the judging. The decision of the judging panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding that decision.

9. Judging panel:

The panel is expected to include representatives from Clean Coasts, Think Before You Flush and Uisce Éireann, with a possible representative from Green-Schools, An Taisce. The organisers may change the composition of the panel depending on availability.

10. Notification:

Five shortlisted schools will be contacted through the teacher or authorised staff member named in the entry.

11. Publicity:

The winning schools will be invited to take part in competition publicity. Entry videos, photographs or recordings featuring identifiable pupils will not be shared publicly unless the school has been informed of the proposed use and all necessary permissions are in place. A pupil's participation in the competition will not depend on permission to take part in publicity.

12. Use of entries:

The school retains ownership of its model and original entry materials. By entering, the school gives An Taisce, Clean Coasts, Think Before You Flush and Uisce Éireann permission to view, copy and retain the submitted material for the purposes of administering and judging the competition. Any wider use will be subject to the publicity provision above.

Entry Rules

1. Number of entries:

There is no limit to how many entries a school may make although only one entry per class is allowed.

2. Entry details:

Each group must register for the competition using the Registration Form. Registration must be done by an authorised adult, i.e. class teacher. Completion of the form constitutes full acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.

3. Shortlisting and school visits:

Five entries will be shortlisted. Competition representatives will visit each shortlisted school to view the model and speak to participating pupils and teachers. Shortlisted schools must keep the model intact, provide a suitable and safe display space, ensure staff supervision and follow their own safeguarding, visitor and health and safety procedures. Visit arrangements are subject to reasonable access, location and scheduling requirements.

4. Selecting the winner:

The shortlisted entries will be assessed following the school visits and one overall winning school will be selected.

5. Winning school event:

The winning school must be available to host a Think Before You Flush event on World Toilet Day, Thursday, 19th November 2026, at a time agreed with the organisers. The school must provide adequate indoor event and set-up space, suitable access, staff supervision and all permissions required for the event, photography, filming or media activity. If the highest-ranked school cannot meet these requirements, the organisers may offer the event to the next highest-ranked eligible school.

6. Prizes:

Cash prizes will be awarded.

7. Personal information:

Information supplied will be used to administer and judge the competition, contact schools, arrange visits and the winning-school event and manage agreed publicity. Schools should not submit pupils' full names, home addresses, personal contact details or other unnecessary personal information.

8. General:

The organisers may reject an entry that does not comply with these terms, contains unsafe or unsuitable material or includes identifiable children without the necessary permissions. The organisers may amend, postpone or cancel the competition, a visit or the event where circumstances outside their reasonable

control make this necessary. They accept no responsibility for entries that are lost, delayed, corrupted, incomplete or not received because of technical difficulties.

Additional Information

Think Before You Flush ran a survey with over 1,000 people to find out more about their flushing behaviour and we compiled a list of the twelve most common sewage-related litter items flushed down the toilet in error. We call them the Dirty Dozen. Not all the items are appropriate for primary school pupils yet but we encourage teachers to tell the pupils about those that are appropriate and to use them in creating their fatbergs if they wish. Other items commonly flushed in error include hair, dental floss and contact lenses.

THE DIRTY DOZEN

These items should NEVER be flushed down the toilet

When these items are flushed down the toilet they can cause problems in our homes, wastewater treatment network and the environment

 Cotton Buds	 Baby Wipes	 Facial Wipes
 Cleansing Pads	 Toilet Roll Tube	 Medicines
 Cigarettes	 Plasters	 Nappies
 Tampons	 Tampon Applicator	 Sanitary Pads

Please put these items in the bin and NOT down the toilet

Help to beat
THE DIRTY DOZEN
and support **Think Before You Flush**

Join the campaign at thinkbeforeyouflush.org





Think Before You Flush is operated by An Taisce's Clean Coasts Programme in partnership with Irish Water

- Entry to the competition constitutes full and unconditional acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.
- For queries relating to the competition, please contact the Think Before You Flush team at tbyf@antaisce.org.