

With your fingers crossed, you watch as a tampon swirls around the toilet bowl and disappears. As long as the pipe leading from your house or apartment to the sanitary sewer doesn't have a rough inside texture or tree root invasion; that tampon is ready for a journey! But where to?



The sanitary sewer is a well-planned system of underground pipes and pumps for waste. If there are no blockages in the pipes, the wastewater reaches a municipal treatment plant after only 6 to 8 hours. Since a tampon keeps its shape, guess what it's called by workers?

So along with wood, cloth, paper and plastics, tampons are removed during preliminary treatment (screens) as to not clog or damage equipment. Then all the "mice" (and trash) are collected into a dumpster and trucked to a landfill for their final resting place.



Many times the voyage is VERY different.

The EPA estimates that at least 40,000 times a year sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) occur in the USA. SSO's are caused by many reasons such as line breaks, excess storm water and groundwater overloading the system and *BLOCKAGES*- grease build-up, tree roots, tampons and other culprits like baby and personal care wipes. What happens? Raw sewage flows into basements, out of manholes, and into waterways causing serious water quality problems.



The trip is more challenging in 772 communities serving **40 million Americans** that have Combined Sewer and Stormwater Systems(CSO's). This system was designed to transport sewage, industrial wastewater and rainwater runoff **in the same pipes** to wastewater treatment plants. During heavy rainfall or snowmelt, they're designed to overflow untreated sewage and stormwater into rivers, streams, lakes and oceans.

Every year to prevent treatment plants from being overwhelmed, **BILLIONS** of gallons of raw sewage are dumped into our water systems. This is a risk to human health, threatens aquatic habitats and life, and destroys the use of our nation's lakes, rivers and oceans



Ever walk along the shoreline and come across a beach whistle? WRONG...



its a plastic tampon applicator.

Plastic applicators not only can clog toilets and add to blockages in sewer systems but are difficult to remove at treatment plants. Called “floatables” they are often discharged with the treated water (effluent) into a river, lake or ocean. Clean Ocean Action reports that during a 2013 beach cleanup along the Jersey shore 3,102 tampon applicators were collected.

It's time to provide a safe, sanitary and sustainable alternative in women's washrooms for women to dispose of feminine care products. PERIOD.