



**MOUNTAIN VILLAS VOICE**  
**MOUNTAIN VILLAS ASSOCIATION**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022**

**MANAGER'S MESSAGE**

With this newsletter begins another new year. We hope everyone had a great holiday season. Just a few seasonal reminders as we kick off winter on the mountain. We ask that you please follow these helpful guidelines:

- Be kind and courteous when parking.
- Place all trash inside the dumpsters.
- Keep hallways free of clutter including ski boots, trash and firewood.
- Use the golf course entrance when coming into the property. The traffic pattern becomes one way for safety reasons.

We thank you for your consideration and your help to ensure everyone's safety and security during the exciting winter months in the Mt. Villas.

**MAINTENANCE MINUTE**

It is the time of year to keep our focus on prevention and safety. Please remember to open your cabinet door under the sinks to prevent any pipes from freezing. Also, townhouse

owners, please turn your water off when you leave for the week. Remember to report any furnace issues immediately. Remember to check and change the batteries in your keyless locks regularly as the cold weather does shorten their life span.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Reminder, after hour calls are for no heat and water leaks. All others will be addressed the next day.

I would like to thank everyone for the generous donations to the Humane Society and to the Somerset Food Bank. The deliveries will go a long way in helping both of these organizations. They were both very grateful for our gifts.

**The Staff and Council of the Mountain Villas would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year. May 2022 bring you peace, joy and happiness.**



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## WHAT NOT TO FLUSH

We want to start the New Year off right by being environmentally aware of our ecosystem. Here are some important tips to follow, from the PA Water Authority, for what and “WHAT NOT” to flush.

We have provided these tips before, but they are worth repeating. Share these with your family, friends, guests, and renters. It may save you and your neighbors a great deal of time, inconveniences and dollars.

### 1. Cotton Balls/Q-Tips

You may think that cotton is flushable since a lot of toilet paper is made from cotton linen (Cottonelle/Cotton soft), but it isn't! Cotton balls, Q-tips, and cotton rounds will clump together in your pipes and cause a clog.

### 2. Paper Towels

Paper towels are tough and not made to dissolve in water. Some are even strong enough to hold a bowling ball, if you remember the commercial. Even the biodegradable kinds are not meant to be flushed, so throw all paper towels in the trash, not the toilet.

### 3. Dental Floss

No dental floss is meant to dissolve in water, so it will end up getting stuck and tangled in pipes and sewage systems, snagging other things like fats, oils, paper towels, wipes, and other material. Any other stringy material has the same propensity to cause clogs. Continue to floss, just put it in the trash when you're done.

### 4. Facial Tissue

Like paper towels, tissues are made to be much stronger than toilet paper. Toilet paper is a specially designed product made of shortened fibers to speed up the process of disintegration. Try washing your hands with toilet paper compared with tissues or paper towels and you'll recognize the difference.

### 5. Flushable Wipes

Flushable wipes cause the biggest trouble for toilets and septic systems since so many people use them and think that they are “flushable.” As a result, there have been public awareness campaigns, lawsuits, and countless stories of the problems they cause for sewage treatment centers. Brands are now being forced to remove the “flushable” and “disposable” labels and warn consumers not to flush them. We understand their appeal, but just like tissues and paper towels, remember to throw these in the trash.

### 6. Band-Aids

Band-Aids contain plastic which is not biodegradable. Throw these in the trash, where they belong.

### 7. Diapers

Diapers are thick and can expand and cause pipe clogs, usually in the U-bend. Even the biodegradable kinds will tell you not to flush them. Do the responsible thing and throw the diapers and wet wipes in the trash.

### 8. Pills

Any drugs, including pills, should never be flushed down the toilet. This isn't so much a clog concern, but rather an environmental one. Sewage systems have complicated biological processes to break down waste and medications can interfere with that. Most medications cannot be removed from the water, so they end up in our lakes, oceans, rivers, and ponds.



### 9. Cat Litter

You may think that it would be healthier and more environmentally friendly to dispose of cat waste and litter in your toilet, but this isn't the case. Although some litter brands may market themselves as flushable, others can expand to 15 times their normal size and clog your pipes. Additionally, cat feces contain a parasite called *Toxoplasma gondii*, which cannot be broken down by sewage systems and can enter the oceans and cause harm to wildlife. This goes for all pet excrement.

Although there is no perfect way of getting rid of litter, we recommend scooping it into biodegradable baggies and throwing them in the trash.

### 10. Feminine Products

Most public restrooms have signs and little disposal bins to encourage women to throw away, not flush, their feminine products. Like the other cotton items on our list, tampons will expand and cause clogs. Just don't do it, ladies.

#### Don't flush any of these items either:

- Hair
- Paint/Sealants/Thinners
- Oils/Grease/Food/Coffee Grounds
- Bandages/Bandage Wrapping
- Pet Excrement
- Condoms
- Anything Plastic
- Poisons/Hazardous Waste
- Cigarette Butts

What does that leave us with? Nothing, except toilet paper and human waste. Everything else should be thrown in the trashcan.

***Regular toilet paper is the only thing you should flush down your toilet.***

#### Can toilet paper clog pipes?

Yes, even toilet paper can cause clogs. Many toilets, especially older ones, won't be able to handle the thick, plush varieties. If you need the soft, strong kind, choose ones marked as "eco-friendly" which tend to perform better. And even if it's one-ply, that doesn't mean it dissolves any faster.



## **Gig workers: Here comes an estimated tax deadline**

If you're a gig worker or otherwise self-employed, and you don't have taxes withheld from a paycheck, you likely have to make quarterly estimated tax payments to the IRS. Be advised that the fourth quarter 2021 estimated tax payment deadline for individuals is coming up on Tuesday January 18, 2022.

### **A pay-as-you-go-system**

If you do have some withholding from paychecks or payments you receive but you receive other types of income such as Social Security, prizes, rent, interest and dividends, you may still have to make estimated payments. And if you fail to make the required payments, you may be subject to a penalty as well as interest.

Generally, you need to make estimated tax payments for 2021 if you expect withholding to be less than the smaller of 90% of your 2021 or 100% of your 2020 tax. The applicable amount is 110% of your 2020 tax and if your 2020 adjusted gross income was more than \$150,000, or \$75,000 if married filing separately.

Sole proprietors, partners and S corporation shareholders generally must make estimated tax payments if they expect to owe \$1,000 or more in tax when filing a tax return.

### **Quarterly due dates**

If you're new to estimated tax payments, be prepared to submit them throughout the year. The due dates are typically April 15, June 15, September 15 and January 15 of the following year. However, if the date falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the next business day.

Estimated tax is calculated by factoring in expected gross income, taxable income, deductions and credits for the year. The easiest way to pay estimated tax is electronically through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System. You can also pay estimated tax by check or money order using the Estimated Tax Payment Voucher, or by credit or debit card.

### **Seasonal businesses**

Most individuals make estimated tax payments in the four installments. You simply determine the required annual payment, divide the number by four and make four equal payments by the due dates.





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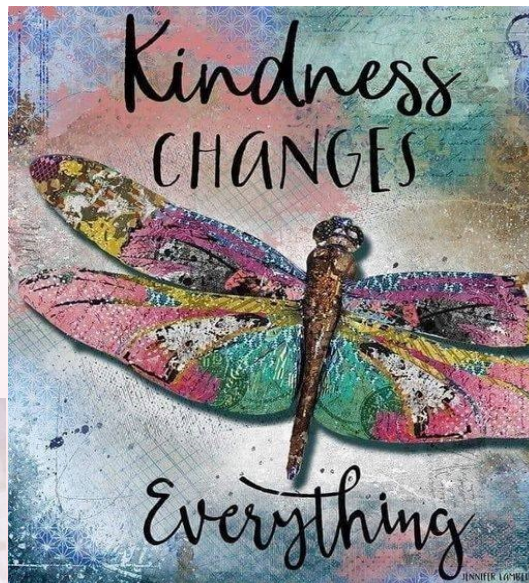
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**New Year Blessings**

Here comes a brand new year,  
Lots of new things to explore,  
A clean, blank slate to write on,  
Fun happenings galore.

To you we wish the best of things,  
All the blessings a new year brings.

By Joanna Fuchs  
Poemsources.com

**WINTER FUN!**