



Technical Specification

ISO/TS 18671

Test methodologies for assessing the compatibility of wet wipes and moist toilet tissue with the wastewater collection and treatment systems, and appropriate labelling

*Méthodologies d'essai pour évaluer la compatibilité des lingettes
humides et du papier hygiénique humide avec les systèmes de
collecte et de traitement des eaux usées, et étiquetage approprié*

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Sample Document

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 224, *Drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems and services*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Flushing of products that are incompatible with sewerage networks can contribute to:

- blockages in home plumbing and smaller sewer pipes, and blockages in pumps;
- increased screening of solids for solid waste disposal;
- increased burden for treatment processes both on-site and at the municipal level, with non-degradable materials which can lead to further downstream environmental impacts;
- increased risk of sewer blockages at reduced sewer flows.

Consistent labelling and education to inform consumers of proper disposal of products is important to help reduce adverse effects on wastewater collection and treatment systems. Application of this document presupposes that not only the producers but also all the concerned parties involved in export, retail or consumption are aware of the legislation and regulations pertaining to wet wipes and moist toilet tissues.

This document provides recommendations regarding:

- labelling and the use of a symbol to be used with non-flushable product packages indicating incompatibility with the wastewater system;

If a product is compatible with a wastewater collection and treatment system the producer may use a suitable symbol conforming with relevant local or national standards, or in compliance with legal requirements of the targeted country or region.

- the use of any of five different available methodologies worldwide for assessing product compatibility with the wastewater collection and treatment system and subsequent labelling.

This document describes currently published test methodologies for assessing compatibility of products with wastewater networks. Each methodology comprises different methods that must be used to determine wastewater network compatibility. It is important to note that the methodologies are stand alone, and the individual methods are not designed to be interchanged. They are outlined in [Annex B](#), detailing where they are being used and differences in testing approach, enabling the reader to select whether a particular methodology is more relevant to their geographical region.

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Test methodologies for assessing the compatibility of wet wipes and moist toilet tissue with the wastewater collection and treatment systems, and appropriate labelling

1 Scope

This document provides test methodologies for assessing the compatibility of wet wipes and moist toilet tissue with the wastewater collection and treatment systems, and it specifies appropriate labelling for products deemed incompatible. The products that this document is applicable for are wet wipes and moist toilet tissue.

This document does not cover:

- toilet paper as defined and covered by other ISO documents;
- chemical toilets or compost toilets that are not connected to sewer systems;
- macerator and vacuum sewer systems;
- water soluble polymers.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 24513, *Service activities relating to drinking water supply, wastewater and stormwater systems — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 24513 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 biodegradation

degradation due to the biological environment

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 19057:2017, 3.2, modified — Note 1 to entry was removed.]

3.2 disintegration

breaking of material into small pieces in water under specified conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 12625-17:2021, 3.1, modified — “process that is characterized by a material breaking” was changed to “breaking of material”.]

3.3

methodology

collection of standards, procedures and supporting methods that define the complete approach to the development of a product or system

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 21827:2008, 3.22]

3.4

mineralization

decomposition of organic matter or organic substances into carbon dioxide, water and the hydrides, oxides or other mineral salts

[SOURCE: ISO 11074:2025, 3.3.19, modified — “final stage of the biodegradation” was changed to “decomposition”.]

3.5

moist toilet tissue

moist toilet paper

prewetted nonwoven material intended for sanitary use after using the toilet

Note 1 to entry: Products labelled as “moist toilet paper” are made from nonwoven material and are not considered as “toilet paper” for the purpose of this document.

[SOURCE: ISO 12625-1:2019, 3.60, modified — The term was changed from “toilet paper” to “moist toilet tissue”; in the definition, “tissue paper” was changed to “prewetted nonwoven material”.]

3.6

persistent

existing or remaining in the same state for an indefinitely long time

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 18307:2001, 3.111, modified — The admitted terms “persistence” and “enduring” were removed.]

3.7

plastic

solid material which contains, as an essential ingredient, one or more high molecular mass polymers and which is formed (shaped) during either manufacture of the polymer or the fabrication into a finished product by either heat or pressure, or both

Note 1 to entry: In different regions there are legal definitions of plastic(s). Users of this document are advised to check the definition of plastic in the geographical or jurisdictional region where products are marketed.

[SOURCE: ISO 21070:2017, 3.2.11 modified — The original Notes to entry were removed, and a new note was added.]

3.8

toilet paper

bathroom tissue

bath tissue

dry toilet paper

tissue paper intended for sanitary use after using the toilet

Note 1 to entry: Products labelled as “moist toilet paper” are often made from nonwoven material and are not considered as “toilet paper” for the purpose of this document.

[SOURCE: ISO 12625-1:2019, 3.60, modified — In the note to entry, “are not in the scope of this document” was changed to “are not considered ‘toilet paper’ for the purpose of this document”.]

3.9

transit time

sewer residence time

in-sewer travel time

wastewater residence time

amount of time a given volume of wastewater resides in a sewer system between a designated beginning and end point

Note 1 to entry: Sewer systems include pumping stations and treatment plants.

3.10

toilet

water closet

WC

fixed receptacle into which a person may urinate or defecate, typically consisting of a large bowl connected to a cistern for flushing

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 24524:2019, 3.7, modified — “water closet” and “WC” were added as admitted terms.]

3.11

wet wipe

small piece of premoistened or prewetted material which is conceived, designed and placed on the market for single-use (disposable) and intended for personal care or domestic use

Note 1 to entry: Personal care is intended to be used for hygiene purposes, these include cleansing and caring of skin of both human adults and babies e.g. cosmetics, baby wipes, intimate care wipes.

Note 2 to entry: A domestic use wet wipe is intended to be used in domestic premises. These include wet wipes used for household cleaning purposes, e.g. wipes used to clean.

Note 3 to entry: Prewetted wipes typically contain an impregnation liquid which has been added to the wipe before it is placed on the market.

Note 4 to entry: Adapted from Reference [11].

4 Framework

4.1 Context

References [9] to [20] were the basis for drafting this document. These documents are current national standards, international guidelines and specifications which have been adopted in some regions.

[Table B.1](#) provides an overview of the various test methodologies in use, when they were published, their relevance and the regions or countries where they are being applied. When selecting a particular methodology described in [Annex B](#), based on the aspects outlined in this document, users should follow the methodology as prescribed. Test methods from different methodologies should not be interchanged. The key elements of a wastewater system to be considered in test methods for evaluating products suitable for toilet disposal are described in ISO/TR 24524. The design, operation and serviceability of sewerage facilities can vary widely from country to country.

The key elements are:

- a) toilets;
- b) drainlines (including domestic pumps);
- c) wastewater transport systems (including municipal pumps) and screening systems;
- d) treatment processes;
- e) environment.