Press release

# Every second Czech uses the toilet as a dustbin

**Prague, 19 April 2017 – A common habit in Czech households is to flush various types of waste down the toilet. According to a recent survey by the JIKA brand, the leading Czech manufacturer of sanitaryware, bathroom furnishings, and wall and floor tiles, Czechs most often flush down the toilet: dirty water after mopping the floor (80%), food scraps (52%) and hair (40%). However, frying oil, cigarette butts and even aquarium fish are not an exception. Yet none of it belongs in the toilet. Flushing can lead to (not only) unnecessary complications in the form of clogged or even completely blocked waste outlets.**

**Be wary of mop water**

Nearly three-quarters of Czechs pour into the toilet dirty water after floor, especially residents of Prague (90.5%), the Moravian-Silesian Region (87.7 %) and the Vysočina Region (84.6%). *“For many, it may be surprising that dirty water after mopping the floor should never go down the toilet. And the main reason is that it may contain tiny stones and coarse dirt that can scratch the ceramic and damage the glaze*”,says Ivan Žák, head of product education for Laufen CZ. He continues: *“A very common bad habit is also to flush the scraps from a meal. Larger pieces of food, especially, will easily clog or block the pipes*.*”* Tossing food waste into the toilet is very common in the Liberec Region (75%), Prague (68.3%) and the Karlovy Vary Region (58.8%). For 66.3% of college students, flushing is the most common way of disposing of food scraps.

**Oils and fats don’t belong in the toilet**

Other things that very often wind up in the toilet are hair (40%) and used frying oil (21.3%). Fats trap other grime, clogging pipes. Oil is poured into the toilet most often in Prague (34.9%) and in the Liberec (31.3%) And Ústí (26.2%) regions. Also, such non-decomposable materials as paper tissues or wet wipes should not be flushed. Nevertheless, nearly one-fifth of respondents put these in the toilet. The situation is far better with women’s hygienic products, which are flushed down the toilet by only 4.8 % of women. But Czechs don’t give much thought to smaller cosmetic items, so cosmetic wipes or cotton ear swabs often get tossed into the toilet.

**Aquarium fish often disappear along with toilet water**

The toilet is also occasionally used to rid the household of such things as expired medicine, cigarette butts and even small animals including spiders and fish. Pet owners sometimes flush away granular cat litter when cleaning the litterbox.

**The toilet is not a dustbin**

Only one-fifth of respondents said that they use the toilet purely for the purpose it is intended, flushing away nothing else. *“That’s a really small number. I encourage everyone to think about what they flush down the toilet. A blocked waste outlet is a very unpleasant matter and can also be very expensive,”* says Žák.

**TOP 5: Inappropriate items Czechs flush down the toilet**

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| Dirty water from mopping |
| Food scraps |
| Hair |
| Frying oil |
| Small animals (such as aquarium fish) |

Source: Survey by JIKA, March 2017

**About the survey**

The survey was carried out using the Ipsos Instant Research platform. Data collection took place online in March 2017. The questionnaire was filled out by 525 respondents in a representative sample by age, region, household size and education.