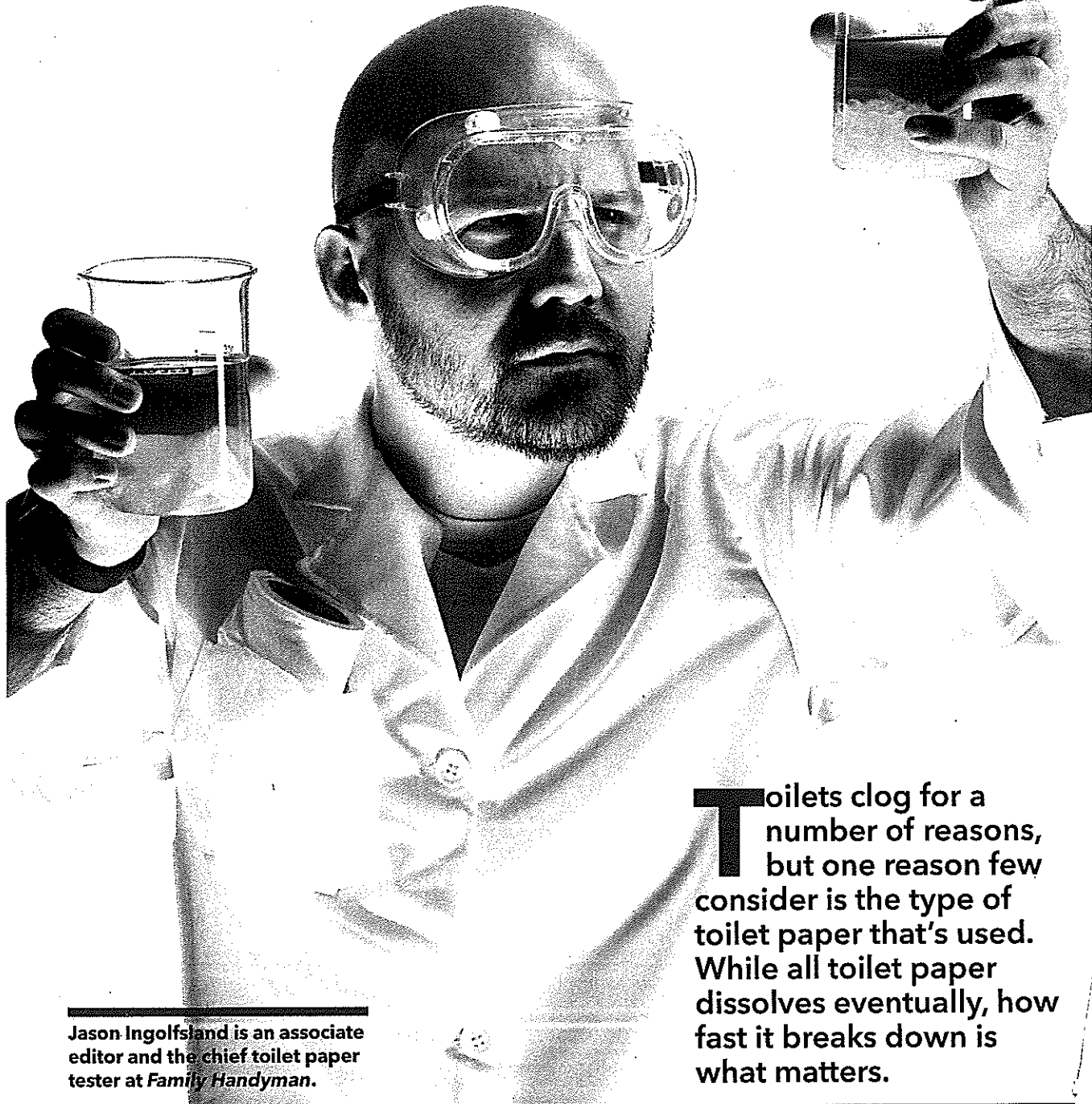


# TOILET PAPER *TEST*

Faster breakdown means fewer clogs

BY JASON INGOLFSLAND



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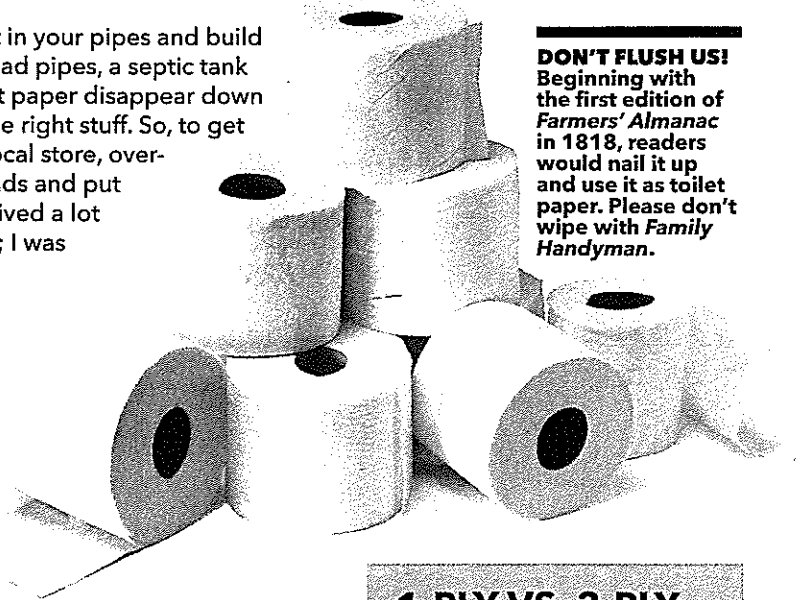
**T**oilets clog for a number of reasons, but one reason few consider is the type of toilet paper that's used. While all toilet paper dissolves eventually, how fast it breaks down is what matters.

Slow-dissolving toilet paper can get caught in your pipes and build up, creating a clog. If you have an old toilet, bad pipes, a septic tank or a kid who loves to watch streamers of toilet paper disappear down the toilet, it's even more important you buy the right stuff. So, to get to the bottom of that problem, I went to my local store, over-loaded my cart with popular toilet paper brands and put them to the test. As you might imagine, I received a lot of strange looks, but I didn't let that deter me; I was on a mission.

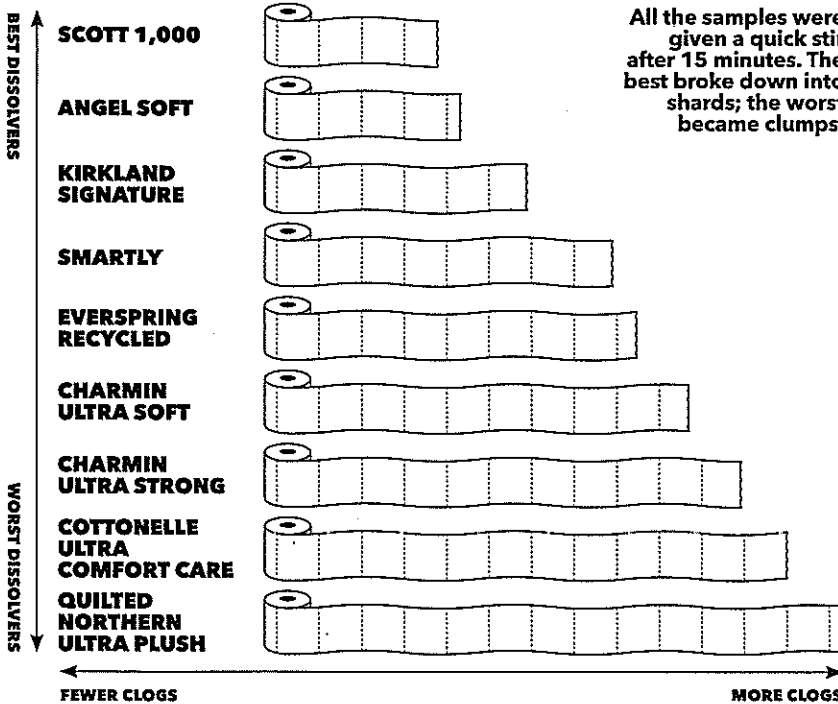
## THE PROCESS

Because I was testing how fast toilet paper disintegrated in water, I didn't consider other factors like the environment, cost or comfort. I needed to find the toilet paper with the fastest breakdown. That's it. Thankfully, the process wasn't difficult; you could easily do it at home. I gathered nine rolls of popular toilet paper brands and dropped two squares of each in water and let them sit for 15 minutes. Afterward, I stirred to simulate a single flush. Then I tried to scoop the scraps out of the water. The samples that barely remained intact were the winners. The results were stunning and clear.

**DON'T FLUSH US!**  
Beginning with the first edition of *Farmers' Almanac* in 1818, readers would nail it up and use it as toilet paper. Please don't wipe with *Family Handyman*.



## TOILET PAPER BREAKDOWN



### 1-PLY VS. 3-PLY

Toilet paper comes in 1-, 2- and 3-ply versions. With 1-ply paper, you might expect that people would simply use more and end up with the same clogging problems caused by thicker paper. But I found that 1-ply paper breaks down better, even if more is used. For example, I tested three times as much of the Scott 1,000 1-ply as the Quilted Northern Ultra Plush 3-ply to see if it made any difference in breakdown. It didn't. More sheets of Scott 1,000 still broke down faster than the equivalent of Quilted Northern Ultra Plush.

### WATCH THE VIDEO!

To watch the toilet paper breakdown challenge and get more great toilet info, search for "toilet paper" and "toilet" at [familyhandyman.com](http://familyhandyman.com).

## WHAT NOT TO FLUSH

- Wipes, even "flushable" ones
- Feminine hygiene products
- Paper towels
- Cotton swabs
- Floss
- Pills

