

Preventing Sewer Backups



FLUSHING ITEMS DOWN THE TOILET CAN CLOG SEWER PIPES AND EQUIPMENT, RESULTING IN:

- Flooding and flood damage to your property,
- Damage to sewer system equipment,
- Increased operations costs, affecting sewer rates.

“Consumer Reports tested several brands of flushable wipes and found that while toilet paper disintegrated after only eight seconds, the wipes still hadn’t broken down after 30 minutes.”



SANITARY WIPES:

- Feminine products, wipes, paper towel, etc. do not break down before reaching sanitary lift stations. This debris can clog the pump or wrap around the pump shaft, causing the pump to seize.
- These items may also build up in sewer manholes, slowly restricting the flow until a complete blockage exists.
- Not all “flushable” wipes are created equal. Play it safe and do not flush any wipes.

WHAT CAN YOU FLUSH?

This is simple. The only things you can flush down the toilet are toilet paper and human waste.

Pipe 90% full of grease



GREASE:

- Grease sticks to the wall of a sewer pipe and restricts flow in the same way grease sticks to the arteries in your body.
- Grease also sticks to the equipment, reducing efficiency and promoting further buildup.



“A 15-ton bus-sized glob of wipes and hardened cooking grease was discovered in a London sewer pipe after residents complained of toilets that would not flush.”



PILLS, CHEMICALS:

- While flushed pills and chemicals do not typically result in sewer backups, they are not removed during the sewage treatment process, polluting the environment and the ground water we drink.
- Dispose of pills in the pill drop box located in the lobby at City Hall.
- Contact the Macomb County Health Department, Environmental Health Services Division for information on the proper disposal of chemicals.

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