

No Wipes in the Pipes

Help us wipe out a costly and messy sewer problem!



THE PROBLEM: Wipes, rags, paper towels, and materials are being flushed into the sewer system, causing serious problems for equipment and maintenance crews.

THE SOLUTION: Flush only toilet paper and human waste—nothing else! If you use wipes, **trash ‘em, don’t flush ‘em!**

Disposable Wipes and Paper Products: Disposable disinfectant wipes, baby wipes, and even so-called “flushable” wipes cause serious problems for the sewer system, as they do not break down easily (or at all) once they are flushed. Paper products other than toilet paper (e.g., paper towels) also do not break down once in the sewer line. No matter what the label says, don’t flush them, trash them instead.

Increased Maintenance and Costs: When items like these are flushed, our sewer pipes and pump stations require increased monitoring, maintenance, and repair. This results in higher operational costs, which are paid for by your sewer rates.

A Potent Combination: When wipes and other materials interact with food grease or invasive roots in the sewer, they bind together, causing blockages and creating the potential for overflows. Sewer backups can be both messy and costly to clean up.

A Threat to Your Pipes (and Pocketbook), too: If wipes and other materials can clog our large sewer pipes, they can definitely clog your home’s much smaller pipes, requiring you to pay a plumber to clear the blockage.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD: At home, tell your family members to flush only toilet paper, nothing else. At work, you can help by posting notices in bathrooms and other places where paper towels, wipes, or rags might be used or disposed of. Advise people to **“Trash ‘em, don’t flush ‘em!”**

Why Fats, Oils, and Grease Do Not Belong in the Drain

Did you know that pouring fats, cooking oils, and grease down the drain can cause sewer overflows, backups, and costly repairs at your home? Here are some tips to avoid these issues:

- Pour all cooled cooking fats, oils and grease that will harden (bacon grease, meat drippings) into a waxed food container such as a milk carton or container with a lid and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Mix small amounts of liquid grease into your kitchen scrap recycling (where available) or place in a lidded container with an absorbent material such as cat litter, and dispose of in the garbage.
- Wipe down greasy pots, pans or dishes with a paper towel or newspaper before washing. Dispose of paper in the garbage.
- Scrape greasy food scraps from pots, pans, and dishes into the garbage, not a garbage disposal.
- Do not wash grease down the drain or garbage disposal.

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are naturally produced during cooking and baking. Never put any of these items down the drain. Common sources of FOG include: meat fats, lard, shortening, butter, margarine, Fatty/greasy food scraps, baked goods and pastries, cream-based sauces, cooking oil, and oily salad dressing

What happens when FOG are put down the drain?

When fats, oils and grease are put down your drain they can cause many problems further down the sewer pipe. Liquefied grease and fat from animal products will solidify and clog pipes. Liquid oils can also coat pipes and contribute to blockages. Blockages may cause a sewage backup into your home, resulting in expensive cleanup costs and repairs to your sewer pipes, home and belongings.

