

THE DIRTY TRUTH

ABOUT "FLUSHABLE" WIPES



PROTECT YOUR HOME, NEIGHBORHOOD AND LOCAL WATERWAYS FROM SEWER BACKUPS

FLUSH ONLY TOILET PAPER

IMPORTANT NOTICE: WIPES CLOG PIPES!

WIPES & PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS ARE CLOGGING SEWER PIPES

“Flushable” written on the packaging doesn’t mean you should flush it.

Many baby and adult personal hygiene products, along with household wipes and cleaning towelettes are labeled as “flushable”. While these products may be marketed in that way as a convenience item, the truth is that they have the ability to clog and back up the sewer lines on your property, as well as cause blockages and service problems in the public sewer system and pump stations.

Unlike toilet paper, these products do not break down after they’ve been flushed, or at least don’t degrade quickly enough to avoid clogging the pipes. This problem is especially common in older systems that may already have greases, roots, or other partial obstructions. The resulting clog can leave the homeowner or business owner with a very costly and messy repair.

On a larger scale, when these products make their way into the public sewer system, they collect together. They can cause very large obstructions in the main lines, and get tangled in pump stations, requiring equipment repair or replacement.

Do your part to help us all avoid sewage backups, overflows, costly repairs, and contamination of our waterbodies — **Flush only toilet paper!**

Think before you flush.



Avoid an expensive, messy problem: FLUSH ONLY TOILET PAPER!

Almost every home and business has a connection to the public sewer system. This connection runs from the home or business to the sewer main where it is connected to the public sewer system. This on-site sewer line is the responsibility of the home or business owner, including keeping it clear so there are no back-ups of wastewater into the home or business. Save yourself and your Sewer Utility the costly repairs and/or replacement bills — **DO NOT flush any of the items on the following list. Place them in the trash, not the toilet.**

THESE ITEMS SHOULD NEVER BE FLUSHED

Disinfecting/Surface Wipes	Disposable Diapers or Liners
Adult Sanitary Wipes	Toilet Cleaning Pads
First Aid Wipes	Cotton Swabs
Baby Wipes	Paper Towels
Pet Care Wipes	Bio Sanitary Pads
Cosmetic Wipes	Mop/“Swiffer” Refills
Feminine Hygiene Products	ANY Moist Type Towelettes



CONTACT INFORMATION

To report sewer emergencies:
Haverhill Wastewater Hotline: 978-374-2382

For additional wastewater information:
Haverhill Wastewater Division: 978-374-2382
or visit www.haverhillma.gov

“Flushable” wipes are clogging our sewer pipes: A growing, costly problem that we can easily prevent

Most flushable wipes, even the ones labeled as “flushable” or “100% biodegradable” do not dissolve in the sewer system. Even if you just flush one, eventually wipes will collect in sewer pipes, pumps and equipment, causing clogs and blockages. These buildups can damage machinery and back up the entire system, all the way to your bathroom!

Recently, this rather ugly issue has been getting quite a bit of attention around the world. The use of flushable wipes has increased significantly in the past 10 years, and their increasing popularity has led to millions of dollars of sewer problems, and in some cases, contentious lawsuits between wipe manufacturers and cities tasked with repairing sewer problems they have caused.

Experts all agree that the safest way to avoid the damages caused by this issue is through public education and a community-wide effort. Help us all avoid sewage backups, overflows and protect Haverhill’s environment – **Flush only toilet paper.**



City of Haverhill Wastewater Department

40 South Porter Street

Haverhill, MA 01835

978-374-2382

www.haverhillma.gov