

## **Wipes Clog Pipes**

As we all know fat, oil and grease can clog pipes and sewer lines resulting in overflows of the sewer system. Similarly, baby wipes, makeup remover wipes, plastic bags, and other objects being flushed down toilets can cause the same problem. These items often get stuck within the sewer system and restrict the flow until the system is blocked completely.

Any solid matter that is put down the toilet has the potential to cause blockages in the drainage system. Flushing foreign objects, such as baby wipes, makeup remover wipes, sanitary napkins, and other objects (even if they claim to be flushable or biodegradable) can be disastrous. Clogged toilets can overflow into homes resulting in huge cleanup efforts and destruction of property. Imagine if there's more than one user improperly disposing of wipes. Just like a large amount of toilet paper can clog a toilet, a massive amount of wipes can clog a sewage collection system.

Blockages within the sewage collection system can result in gallons of wastewater overflowing into homes, parks, yards, streets, ditches, streams, and other waterways. The only things you should ever flush down a toilet are human waste and toilet paper. Even though some wipes and baby diapers claim to be flushable and/or biodegradable, they do not break down quickly enough, clogging sewage treatment systems and causing sewage spills. Avoid flushing any type of wipe, "disposable" or otherwise, down the toilet. Just because something says it can be flushed, does not mean it should.

With your assistance, we can minimize the probability of having to deal with the unpleasant cleanup, annoyance, and inconvenience associated with sewage spills. Be a good neighbor – don't use your toilet as a trash can! Help us protect you, your property, and our environment. If you have any questions, please contact the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division at (571) 801-0241.

### **What NOT to Flush!**

**Disposable baby wipes/diapers**  
**Feminine hygiene products**  
**Makeup remover wipes**  
**Cotton balls/swabs**  
**Plastic bags and/or wrappings**  
**"Flushable" cat litter**

**Paper towels**  
**Rags**  
**Cleaning Wipes**  
**Bandages**  
**Condoms**  
**Toys**