

WIPES CLOG PIPES

Most flushable wipes are not as flushable as they are advertised to be
Joe "The Sewer Guy" Rehm | Sewer Plant Manager

Clean water is critical to sustaining life and health, yet people often take for granted the flow of water into and out of their homes and businesses. Where does it go after we flush the toilet, empty the sink, take a shower or do laundry? Why is it important to properly maintain sewer infrastructure? Like many other modern conveniences that have been developed to save us time, the disposable wipe industry has equally created a challenge for countless sewer systems across the country, Arrowhead Sewer Company included.



Wastewater drains into the community's sanitary sewer system, an underground network of pipes that leads to the wastewater treatment plant. At the wastewater treatment plant, the used water is "cleaned" by several treatment processes and returned back to the environment to be used over and over again.

Sewers are designed to take away used water from sinks, baths, showers, laundries and toilets. However, sewers are not designed to handle many items today labeled "flushable". While moist toilet wipes can make you feel cleaner in the bathroom, they may contribute to a huge headache for you and your wallet down the line! If the wet wipes you flushed do not get caught up in the pipes or create blockage and would reach the sewer system, it can still cause havoc to your home septic system as well as the sewer system.

Why? Because instead of clogging up the drain lines, it now causes a blockage within the septic tank. The result is a backed-up sewer that can come into your home through your sinks, drains, bathtub, and other openings that are directly connected to the home septic system.

Toilet paper is made of paper and designed to disintegrate in a matter of seconds to minutes depending on the brand and thickness. Flushable wipes are often made of fibrous materials like cellulose that have been treated with chemicals and reinforced with polyester or plastic fibers to make them more durable. They are then moistened with liquid solutions.

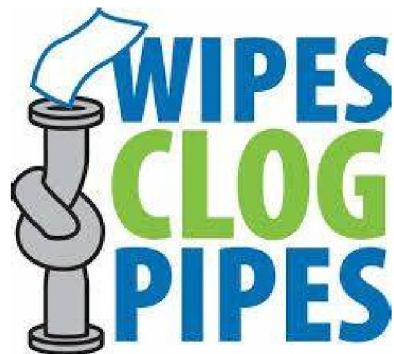


ASC pump clogged with "flushable wipes"

The chemical composition of these wipes, alongside design intricacies of sewer lines and laterals, is the reason wipes should never be flushed. Just because you CAN flush it doesn't mean you SHOULD flush it. Save yourself plumbing bills and inconvenience by simply throwing all wipes in the trash can.



Disposable wipes clogged up in a sewer line grinder

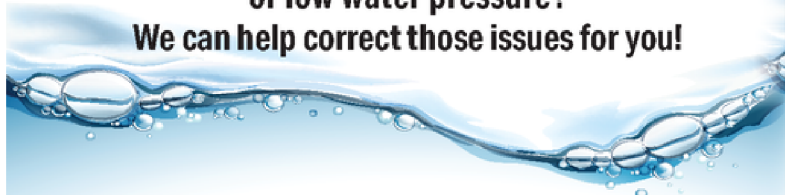


Save yourself the money (on wipes and repairs) by avoiding wet wipes. What else might you be flushing that shouldn't go down the loo? The list of accepted "flushables" is quite limited. **As a plumber might say, stick to the four P's: pee, poop, puke, and [toilet] paper.**

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