

Help Stop Clogging Pipes...Don't Flush Wipes!

Many household cleaning products are labeled and marketed as disposable; many baby hygiene products are labeled both disposable and flushable. And while these products may be marketed as a convenience item in this way, the truth is that these household wipes and



cleaning towelettes have the ability to clog and stop up not only the sewer line on your property, but also can cause blockage and service problems in the public sewer system and pump stations. Unlike toilet paper, these products don't break down once they are flushed. They can cause blockages in your on-site side sewer, especially older pipelines that may have grease, roots, or other obstructions already existing. A repair of the side sewer line can leave the homeowner with a nasty repair bill. On a larger scale when these products make their way into the public sewer system they collect together and cause clogs in the sewer main lines and get tangled in pump stations requiring repair or replacement of equipment.

We need everyone's help...

The following items should never be flushed into the sewer system:

- Disinfecting wipes, Baby wipes.
- Q-tips.
- Toilet cleaning pads.
- Mop or "Swiffer" type refills.
- Paper towels.
- Moist towelettes.
- Any consumer item that is not toilet paper.

Approximately 60% of the residences in Atascadero are served by the public sewer system. They are connected to the public sewer system by means of a lateral pipeline. The lateral runs from the residence to the street where it is connected to the public sewer system. This lateral pipeline is the responsibility of the homeowner to keep clear so there are no back-ups of wastewater into the home, saving yourself and your Sewer Utility from costly repairs and/or replacement bills – put wipes, rags, and towels in the trash, not the toilet.