

COVID 19 CAUSING SEWER RATE HIKE?

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Please Don't Flush the Wipes!

Sanitary wipes of all types and brands have been causing headaches for sewer system operators for at least a decade. While the label states the wipes are “flushable”, the label does NOT state that once in the sewer the wipes do not degrade and cause major clogging and pump damage issues. By the way, the sewer system operators' headaches show up as RATE HIKES to the customer. The cost to maintain sewer systems has gone up dramatically since the sanitary wipe market has grown. The large vacator trucks and the rodder trucks are common among City Utility Crews these days and they're not cheap to operate but they're essential due to major clogs that usually involve wipes. When you see these trucks, please know that a sewer system operator is working to make sure you can continue to flush but also know this cost has to be rolled into the cost of maintaining the sewer system also known as your sewer bill.

During this time of shelter in place and the potential shortage of toilet paper caused by some folks to “panic”, more wipes are likely to end up in the sewer system leading to more clogs and pump damage, and more expense. We're urged to disinfect and wipe down surfaces frequently to combat the virus. Actual paper products such as napkins or Kleenex are good substitutes if you don't have toilet paper. This link from the Water Environment Federation explains more <https://www.wef.org/news-hub/wef-news/water-sector-request-flush-wisely/>.

The market for disinfectant and other wipes has never been stronger. They're great products that serve a great role. But please, toss them in the garbage! For everyone's sake they don't need to end up in the sewer system.