

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS

When a Sanitary Sewer Overflow occurs, it is usually the result of improper materials being disposed in the sewer system.

Have you ever experienced a sanitary sewer back-up or overflow? These events are avoidable when a progressive preventative maintenance program and public education are put in place. Everyone helps prevent overflows by realizing what contributes to these problems and acts responsibly.



By not flushing anything other than toilet paper, you can help prevent **SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS** and **KEEP SEWER RATES IN LINE!**

DO'S & DON'TS

Wastewater systems are designed to carry **three (3) things: human wastes, toilet paper, and sink drainage.** You can do some simple things to help maintain normal flow and function of the sewer.

DO: Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to properly dispose of refuse such as diapers, wipes, condoms, and personal hygiene products.



DO NOT: Use a toilet as a wastebasket.

DO NOT: Use the toilet to dispose of food scraps, baby wipes, diapers, personal hygiene products or feminine sanitary products.

HELP PREVENT BACKUPS

Certain items should never be disposed in the sanitary sewer:

- Diapers/Wipes
- Cooking Fats, Oils, Grease
- Paper Towels
- Food Scraps (Do NOT use a garbage disposal for all food items)
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Condoms
- Pet Wastes
- Rainwater/Groundwater

DID YOU KNOW...

--Property owners are responsible for the maintenance, repair, cleaning, and replacement of the service line from the building to the Authority's main line sewer.

--Claims for sewer backups must be filed using a specific procedure mandated by the Michigan legislature before a claim is considered.

--Homeowner's insurance will generally not cover a backup unless special coverage is added to the policy for this type of event. Contact your agent for more information.

--A basement floor drain can be modified with a check valve to prevent basement backups. Contact a plumber for details.

THE PROBLEM WITH “WIPES”

We have become a “throw away” society and manufacturers design new products daily designed for single use and quick disposal to meet our demand. There are “wipes” for personal hygiene, baby wipes, dusting wipes, disinfecting wipes, polishing wipes, facial wipes, diaper liners, and so on. Marketing experts play on the simplicity of the idea...just “flush” it, and...we do.

Wipes are made of non-woven materials like polyester and polypropylene to allow chemicals for cleaning/sanitizing to impregnate the fibers of the wipe and be tough enough to “wipe” without tearing or dissolving. The result is a great product...as long as it is used/disposed of properly.

To help eliminate clogged pipes:

- **Keep a lined wastebasket in the bathroom for easy disposal of used personal/sanitary/facial products.**
- **Keep a lined wastebasket in the baby’s room and wrap used diapers, liners, and wipes in a plastic bag for easy trash disposal.**
- **Consider using a washcloth for personal hygiene and baby cleanup and re-purposed clothing for cleaning/dusting rags.**



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“Flushable” Wipes Clog Pipes

