

Did You Know...

When you flush things down the toilet or sink, they do not just “disappear” into the sewer lines. Flushing of inappropriate items may cause a blockage in the sewer lines resulting in a backup in your home or that of your neighbors farther down the line.

Our staff is seeing problems for two main items of concern recently.

1. Fats, oil, and grease (FOG) that solidify in sewer lines and cause blockages. One of the largest of this type of blockages on record was a 130 ton “fatberg” that formed in the London sewers. It took an eight-person crew, working around the clock, days to clear this blockage according to various news reports. The solid blockage was composed of cooking fat and wet wipes which brings us to the second item of concern...
2. Wet wipes also play a part in many sewer blockages. Even those marketed as flushable, rather than just disposable, don't break down fast enough to prevent problems in the sewer system. And some wipes contain alcohol and/or enzymes that can have even more negative effects.



Grease in sewer, Portage County, Ohio, Rootstown area.



Same line after cleaning

The lesson to be learned is “Not everything that can be flushed, should be flushed”. First, think about if the item in question can make it all the way to the sewer plant without harming the treatment system. Think before you flush!