

## Upton's Wastewater Operators Need Your Help!

We are experiencing frequent **pump clogs** because many products are being *flushed* that belong in the trash! This includes baby wipes, feminine hygiene wipes and products, cleaning wipes, toddler wipes, facial wipes, and even “flushable” wipes.



You may ask “**How does this affect me?**” Well, just because the wipe made it down your toilet doesn't mean it's gone! In addition to damaging our sewer infrastructure, clogs in your pipes can cause sewage to **back up** into your basement. Your insurance company may not cover the damage if it was caused by flushing a wipe.

Clogs in the sewer can result in overflows, and a discharge to the **environment**. Town employees can be **injured** when clearing a clogged pump or screen. Ultimately, increased operation costs and the cost of upgrades needed to deal with these materials will be **passed on to rate payers**.

**Flip over to see some questions we're often asked!**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: The wipe I use says “flushable”. Doesn't that mean it's safe to flush?**

*A: Unfortunately, No. There is no standard definition for this term, or standard test. Many products labeled “flushable” to not break down at all after days.*

**Q: Aren't baby wipes, “flushable” wet toilet tissues, cleaning wipes, etc.. all the same type of product?**

*A: No. These products have different substrates, with different binders to hold the fibers together. Baby wipes and cleaning wipes are not flushable, ever.*

**Q: I like using moist toilet tissue. Are you telling me to stop using it?**

*A: No. We're just asking you to place used products into your bathroom trash instead of flushing it, even if it's labeled flushable.*

**Q: So why doesn't the label say “Do Not Flush”? If it isn't flushable, isn't it misleading to say that it is? Is that legal?**



*A: Water quality groups are working with wipe manufacturers to improve labeling, such as the standard “Do Not Flush” logo at the left placed prominently on the package.*

**With your help, we hope to reduce these problems.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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