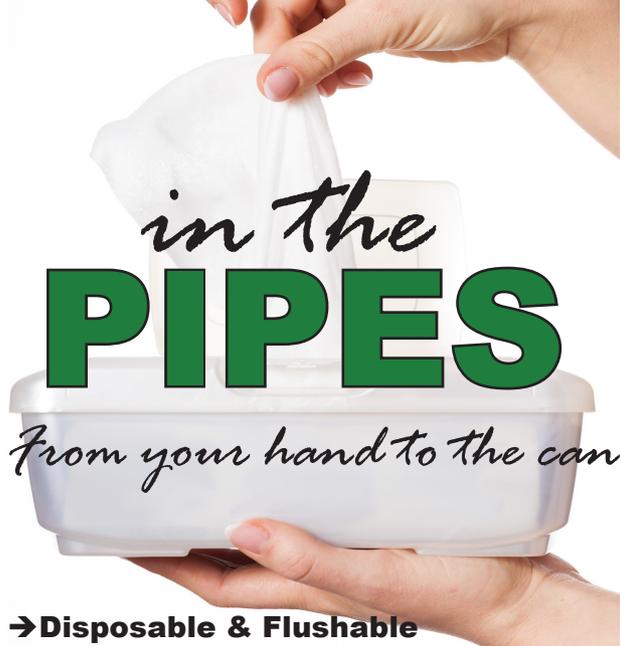


NO WIPES



→ Disposable & Flushable

Large American companies heavily promote bathroom wipes while other companies promote flushable feminine products and disposable sponges. Items such as antibacterial towelettes, cleansing cloths and feminine products are made for the convenience of Americans and are being used more and more.

→ What's the problem with Disposable & Flushable?

These items are made to be durable and don't break down like toilet paper does. They aren't as biodegradable as what they are deemed. What companies aren't telling you is the problems these so called "disposables and flushables" are causing in your sewer lines, our public sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants. While they may be small enough to go through the sewer pipes, they tend to stick together with grease and other solids already in the sewer system creating big balls of cloth that get stuck in the lines. These balls of cloth cause blockages in sewer pipes or end up in the wastewater treatment plants sewage pumps causing them to clog and create sewer backups.

→ Costly Repairs versus Convenience

Costly repairs to sewer lines or pumps due to damages caused by the wipes can run into the thousands of dollars and more. Municipalities can also be fined by MDE for sewage spills created by these avoidable blockages. Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendents and operators alike are dealing with these problems more and more. Financial hardships throughout the country because of already deteriorating infrastructure, on top of repairs due to clogs, outweighs the cost of convenience. Not only does this cost each municipality but the repair costs are passed along to consumers with increased maintenance costs due to the problems. Even private septic systems can have problems. Septic systems may fill up faster and need to be pumped more frequently with less capacity for holding raw sewage due to the space taken up by the cloth debris.

→ Consumer Education

Consumers aren't aware of the problems these disposable items are creating. Public Works Departments all over the country have started campaigning to promote awareness through public media, schools, etc. to educate consumers about the dilemma.

→ What can consumers do to help?

▷ **Flushables!** Only flush toilet paper down the toilet.

▷ **Disposables!** Toss wipes, towelettes, cleansing cloths, etc. into trash receptacles where they belong.

▷ **Pass the word!** Inform neighbors, family and friends about the problems caused by disposing wipes, towelettes, cleansing cloths, etc. into the sewer system.

▷ **When in doubt, throw it out!** If you're not sure the item you're using should be disposed of in the toilet then throw it in the trash. Avoid the unnecessary expense of clogging the sewer system or having a private septic tank pumped more often than necessary.



**Bureau of Utilities
Carroll County Government
225 N Center Street
Westminster MD 21157
410-386-2164**