



Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District

P.O. Box 308
1000 Jackson Street
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 537-9137
Fax: (252) 537-3064
www.rrsd.org

The Public is Advised to NOT Flush Wipes, Paper Towels Down Toilet – Throw Them Away Instead

Customers may face expensive in-home plumbing backups and blockages

While the Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District encourages customers to follow the Centers for Disease Control recommendations to clean surfaces with disinfecting wipes to reduce the spread of bacteria, viruses, and disease, **it is important to discard those items in the trash, not the toilet.**

Flushing personal wipes, disinfection wipes, paper towels and similar products down toilets will clog sewers and cause backups and overflows in your sewer lateral, sewer main, sewer manholes and even the wastewater treatment plant, creating a public health risk. Even wipes labeled “flushable” will clog pipes and interfere with sewage collection and treatment throughout the community.

Wastewater treatment facilities are reporting issues with our sewer management collection systems. We are asking residents to not discard wipes in the toilet, but instead to throw them in the trash to avoid backups and overflows. Our centralized sewage collection system depends on gravity and enough water flow to move along human waste and biodegradable toilet paper. The system was not designed for individual nylon wipes and paper towels. Wipes and paper towels do not break down like toilet paper, and therefore clog systems very quickly.

Wipes are among the leading causes of sewer system backups, impacting sewer system and treatment plant pumps and treatment systems. Many spills go to the river where they have broad-ranging impacts on public health and the environment. Preventing sewer spills is important for the protection of public health and the environment.

For those who are concerned about safely disposing of these items, there are steps you can take to cut down on the risk of contamination that do not involve flushing the products in the toilet. Placing items in a tightly sealed bag, and then placing it within another bag is a safe way to dispose of it.

Please do not flush wipes or paper towels down the toilet. Put them in the trash.

Wipes clog Pipes!

Place these items in the **TRASH** and **NOT** the toilet:

- Disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels
- Baby wipes
- Towelettes
- Mop refills



