

Flushable Wipes – Should not be Flushed!



Although these wipes are often labeled as flushable, biodegradable, and sewer and septic safe, these products do not actually break down in water and can cause plumbing problems including clogged toilets and more serious sewer line blockages and backups.

Reportedly, consumers have spent hundreds of dollars unclogging blocked pipes, while wastewater treatment plants have spent millions repairing and replacing machinery that could not process the wipes.

Homeowners have reported the following issues with their plumbing systems after using these wipes:

- Toilet clogs
- Increased utility rates
- Sewer line blockages and backups

Even if the wipes are used sparingly, they can still cause plumbing problems, according to consumers. One reviewer claimed he experienced a toilet clog after using just one wipe.

Water Treatment Plants Also Reporting Problems

Following the same route as all other waste, the wipes travel through household pipes, sewer pumps, and arrive at water treatment plants, which have also reported problems after wipes clogged and damaged existing sewer pumps.

According to some estimates, flushable wipes may be responsible for a 35 percent increase in broken pumps and clogged sewer lines they've seen over the last few years. In addition, many man hours have been wasted removing wipes and repairing broken equipment.

Consumer Reports found that although these products had labels stating that they were safe and would break up after flushing, the wipes remained intact after they were immersed in water for a long period of time. In contrast, the same test showed toilet paper breaking up within seconds.

Studies have been conducted by sewer officials showing flushable wipes cause the replacement of sewage pumps that were routinely clogging due to wipes. To test whether flushable wipes actually disintegrate in water, sewerage employees dyed them bright colors and sent them through the sewer system for one mile. When the employees checked the sewage further down the system, the colorful wipes were still intact, with the "flushable" wipes only showing minor rips and tears.