

Many instances of sewer blockages are related to residents flushing paper towels, napkins, wipes, and similar items down the toilet.

Toilet paper is designed to breakdown. Paper towels, wipes and other items generally do not. Some packaging advertises an item as flushable. However that only means the item will pass through the toilet. That does not mean that these items will pass through your home plumbing pipes, or the pipe between your home and the public sewer (lateral). These items must also flow through the public sewer system, pumps, and other equipment. Toilet paper disintegrates as it passes through the system. Other items don't disintegrate as well or at all. Things that do not break down may get hung up in the sewer system.

Plugged sewers and blocked pumps cause backups resulting in sanitary sewer overflow or sewage backup into homes.

Work on the public sewer system is funded by the ratepayers. Plumber costs come directly out of a resident's pocket. More importantly, backups of sewage into homes can be messy and overflows can cause ecological harm. It is important that we all do our part to prevent this from occurring.

Keep it simple – only flush toilet paper. Everything else goes in the garbage.