



**WATER AND SEWER DIVISIONS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

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PRESS RELEASE

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Sanitary Sewers and “Flushable” Wipes, Face Masks and Other Items

The Wallingford Sewer Division is reminding residents that they should not dispose of cleaning and sanitation wipes, paper towels, face masks, latex gloves and other foreign items by flushing them down the toilet. This notice is being issued to prevent home and business internal plumbing problems as well as to prevent clogs in the public sanitary sewer collection system that could cause overflows or backups into buildings, or result in damage to equipment at the wastewater treatment plant.

Although some of these products are labeled as flushable, cleaning and sanitation wipes are designed and manufactured for strength and durability and do not easily break down in sewer pipes, pumping stations or at the wastewater treatment plant as toilet paper does. Wipes can twist into ropy wads, and then congeal with grease and other cooking fats improperly sent down drains. This in turn can block sewer pipes, and the wipes and other foreign items can become lodged in pumps and other wastewater treatment equipment.

Whether your home or business is connected to the public sewer system or has an onsite septic system, you should never flush any sanitation or cleaning wipes, including baby wipes and those labeled flushable wipes, down the toilet.

Please note that the cost to prevent and clear wipe-related blockages in sanitary sewer pipes, or repair pumps and equipment damaged by these items is passed on to all Wallingford Sewer Division customers.

Wallingford residents can do their part and help avoid sewer blockages, overflows and equipment damage by disposing of wipes, paper towels, face masks and other foreign items in the trash for proper disposal rather than flushing them away.

DO NOT flush wipes, paper towels, face masks, latex gloves and other trash down the toilet.

DO NOT pour grease down kitchen sinks or toilets. Instead, put grease and other cooking fats in a sealed non-recyclable container and throw it out with regular garbage.

Thank you for helping keep our community and facilities clean and functioning.