



## Protect Your Sewer, Protect Your Environment. Don't Flush That!

### Here's a quick quiz:

- Do you want to keep raw sewage from backing up into your home?
- Would you like to keep sewage from bubbling out of the manhole in the street outside?
- When you flush your toilet, would you rather see the water go down instead of overflowing?

If you answered yes to any of these, then don't use your toilet as a trash can!

Sewers are designed to take our wastewater and carry it safely to a treatment plant. But other items often get flushed and can create problems. The City of Keene works hard to keep things flowing through the sewer, but we need a little help! Poop, pee and toilet paper? Okay. Everything else? Put it in the trash!

### Not convinced? Try this simple test:

- Take a square of toilet paper, put it in a jar of water and swish it gently with a stick. The toilet paper quickly disintegrates, just as it would in a sewer.
- Now try the same thing with a baby wipe. It doesn't break apart and, in fact, the things are pretty near to indestructible in a sewer system! Try the same thing with a paper towel.
- Remember, just because it goes down when you flush, that doesn't mean it's not going to cause a problem.

### Why YOU should care.

Sewer blockages can cause all of these:

- Plugged and overflowing toilets
- Poorly draining sinks and showers
- Raw sewage backing up through your drain
- Manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters.
- Health hazards and nuisance odors.
- Increases in the City's maintenance costs.
- Costly maintenance and repair bills for you!

Even things that are labeled "flushable" can cause problems in the sewer system. Flushable toilet brushes and mop heads? Put them in the trash!

### Don't Flush That!:

- \* Paper towels
- \* Wipes (even "flushable" ones)
- \* Cloth or paper rags
- \* Plastic items
- \* Condoms
- \* Feminine hygiene products
- \* Diapers
- \* Kitty litter
- \* Cigarette butts
- \* Dental floss
- \* Latex gloves
- \* Hypodermic needles
- \* Facial tissues
- \* Grease

# What to Flush: The 3 P's- Poop, Pee and (Toilet) Paper

## What NOT to Flush: Pretty much everything else

Here are a few of the things that have caused problems in Keene

Baby wipes and cleaning wipes. Lots of these!



Clothing and cloth products



Shop rags and paper towels



The cord between these two ear plugs is wrapped around rags. Dental floss does the same thing.

Hair nets



Grease in a sewer manhole



A mass of rags and plastics coating mixer equipment in a Wastewater Treatment Plant tank.

A section of pipe plugged with grease. The hole is from the auger when they tried to clear the blockage.



Remember that individual actions add up to the whole.

*Your choices can make a difference!*

