

WIPES MAY BE “FLUSHABLE” BUT THEY DON’T DISINTEGRATE

**And if they don’t disintegrate, they WILL cause serious problems
for you and the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District**

It’s a problem affecting wastewater systems across the country: the increasing popularity of so-called “flushable wipes” in place of toilet paper. While toilet paper disintegrates quickly after flushing, wipes clearly do not, despite the claims of manufacturers. A simple test conducted by Consumer Reports, which can be viewed online, shows toilet paper breaking apart after just a few seconds of mild agitation in water, while a sample of the most popular wipes survived being in agitated in water with an electric kitchen mixer for 10 minutes with no noticeable disintegration.

What this means for you is the possibility of your own pipes becoming clogged with wipes so that wastewater backs up into your home. It also means the prospect of much higher wastewater rates in the future. The Cedar Key Water and Sewer District has already experienced several instances of wipes becoming entangled in and disabling wastewater pumps. Cleaning and repairing these pumps is a dirty, time-consuming task, that requires your friends James, Neil and Billy to disconnect the pump, raise it out of the lift station, drain the sewage out of it, and then struggle to remove the stringy mess from the impellers. Not only is this a terrible waste of staff time, it can be dangerous, and very costly if the pump eventually has to be replaced.



Lift Station Pump Clogged with Wipes

Some wastewater utilities are already having to install expensive grinder pumps to deal with the problem. If the District is forced to go this route, you can be sure that your wastewater rates will go up due to the extraordinary expense of purchasing, installing, powering, and maintaining a large number of these grinder pumps.

So PLEASE, for the sake of your own pipes, and to keep wastewater rates as low as possible, do not flush any of the following items, regardless of whether the packaging claims the item is flushable:

- Adult or baby wipes
- Diapers
- Cotton swabs
- Toilet cleaning pads
- Paper towels
- Feminine hygiene products
- Moist towelettes
- Any consumer item that is not toilet paper