

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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No Wipes in the Pipes!

FREDERICKSBURG, VA (June 3, 2021) – The Fredericksburg Public Works Department reminds everyone that they should not flush wipes, rags, paper towels, or other products down the toilet; NO wipes in the pipes! Only toilet paper!

This reminder can help prevent home plumbing problems and clogs in the public sewer systems. Recently utility staff has responded to several sewer clogs caused by wipes and rags within the City’s public sewer system.

Sewage backups or overflows are expensive to repair, damage sewer pipes and pumps, the wastewater treatment plant, and the environment. Only toilet paper should go in the toilet, because it is designed to dissolve. ALL other items should be thrown out in the trash, including products labeled as “flushable” which are a primary cause of sewer clogs.

Sewage overflows or backups into homes create a health risk due to increased bacteria and disease-causing pathogens. Clogs cause costly damage to infrastructure, including sewage lines and at the City’s wastewater treatment plant.

“The community of Fredericksburg appreciates and understands the value of our sewer collection system and wastewater treatment plant. The message is clear; clean water begins at home with proper disposal of wipes and other materials,” said Director of Public Works Diane Beyer.

See photos below for items removed during routine maintenance that shouldn’t be flushed or put down the drain in the first place:



Metal items collected by magnet.



Grit removal station showing grit and wipes.



Grit and debris routinely removed can amount to as much as ONE TON.

Please remember: Only toilet paper should go in the toilet. ALL other items should be thrown out in the trash. “NO WIPES IN THE PIPES!”

For more information please visit the Public Works Department online at www.fredericksburgva.gov or call 540-372-1023.

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