



Do Not Flush labeling: now it's the law!

In a huge win for consumers, municipalities, and wastewater agencies, Do Not Flush labeling will be required by law on all wet wipe packaging in California as of July 2022. After years of effort, the passage of AB 818 (Bloom) establishes the strongest Do Not Flush labeling and public education requirements in the country for manufacturers of baby and adult wipes, cosmetic wipes, and cleaning wipes.

The high cost of flushing wipes

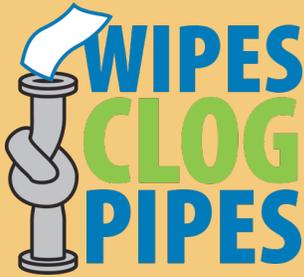
For decades, taxpayers and sewer ratepayers have been shouldering the burden of billions of dollars in sewer infrastructure damage, home backups, environmental fines, and additional labor costs caused by wipes. Combined with fat and grease, wipes form "fatbergs" that can weigh tons, and cause spills and infrastructure damage worldwide—including at the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) treatment plant and in the neighborhoods we serve.

Since their introduction, wipes have been marketed as flushable despite the fact that they are plastic products which do not break down in the sewer system, and cause microplastic pollution in oceans and waterways. We all pay for the damage.

Besides cleanup and repair costs, there is the ongoing expense of separating wipes from wastewater and trucking them to the landfill where they belong, as well as the manual labor required to constantly remove masses of entangled wipes from machinery, which compromises the safety of treatment plant operators (see reverse side). In addition, there is the cost of public education to remedy the problem.

Please help us spread the word to protect the environment, public health, and our community's vital wastewater system

Please flush nothing but "The Three Ps": pee, poop, and toilet paper! That means no wipes, tampons, facial tissue, dental floss, cigarette butts, paper towels, cat litter, condoms, cleaning and personal care products, cotton balls, hair, rags, food waste, fats, oils, or grease—nothing but human waste and toilet paper. Together, we can protect the environment and our investment in our community's wastewater treatment system!



Carmel Area Wastewater District
 3945 Rio Road, Carmel, CA 93923
 (831) 624-1248 • CAWD.org

Toilets aren't trash cans; please put wipes here, so they don't end up here



Photo credit: Hutchinson Leader

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The long way to the landfill
CAWD staff spend 24-32 labor hours every week dismantling our community's three sewage intake pumps to remove entangled wipes, which then must be hauled to the landfill where they belong.

PLEASE—DON'T FLUSH WIPES!

- Wipes cause backups into homes, and costly damage to our community's sewer system—*please dispose of them in the trash only.*
- Despite claims, no wipes of any kind are flushable or biodegradable in the wastewater system. *Please flush only human waste and toilet paper.*



The marketing explosion of throwaway wipes for every conceivable need has caused crisis level problems for municipal sewer systems worldwide, as well as a dramatic increase of plastic pollution in our oceans and waterways. Wipes labeled "biodegradable" do not break down in the sewer system and can take many years to degrade in a landfill.

To protect your home, the environment, and our community's sewage treatment system, please flush nothing but "The Three Ps": pee, poop, and toilet paper!

Negative impacts of wipes:

- Cause expensive sewage backups into homes
 - Damages sewer infrastructure
 - Not biodegradable or recyclable
- A major source of microplastics pollution in the ocean
 - High carbon footprint

Thank you for helping us protect human health and the environment!



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This product is made of material from well-managed FSC®-certified forests and from recycled materials. Printed by a certified Monterey Bay Area Green Business.

Green alternative to wipes:

Use moistened toilet paper instead of wipes, or, better yet, install a bidet attachment to eliminate or reduce the need for both wipes and toilet paper!

Simple bidets start at around \$30, easily attach beneath your existing toilet seat with no special fixtures or tools, and use no electricity.

Luxury bidet toilet seats provide heat, spray modes, and air drying. Either way, you'll see a huge savings in toilet paper and wipes while you protect your health, your plumbing, the environment, and our community's wastewater treatment system.



Bidets offer superior, hands-free cleansing that does not harm the environment or our community's sewage system:

- ✓ Cost saving, one time purchase
- ✓ Healthier, cleaner results—no chemical residue
- ✓ Doesn't pollute ocean/harm wildlife
- ✓ Uses far less water than wipes or toilet paper production
- ✓ Greatly reduces risk of backups and plumbing problems
- ✓ Much smaller carbon footprint
- ✓ Trees will thank you—and so will we!

