



*Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

Sewer and Water Department

SEWER USE REMINDER

Dear Walpole Resident/Business Owner,

In the recent past, the Walpole Department of Public Works-Sewer Division has expended a significant amount of time and money to dealing with sewer/pump backups.

Sewer/pump clogs within Walpole have been primarily related to the flushing of clog forming items, such as “disposable mop heads”, “disposable wipes”, and fats, oils and grease being introduced to the area sewer system. Fats, oils and grease have a tendency to congeal within the pipeline and eventually block the line so that it restricts wastewater flow. Grease and cooking oils should be placed into a can and disposed of in your garbage once cooled.

While these items can physically be introduced to the sewer system, it is important to remember that the sewer system is only designed to handle degradable waste, toilet paper and water from washing/cleaning activities.

Many items on supermarket shelves that are marked as being “flushable” should not be introduced to the sewer system. The following items should be disposed of in the garbage and should **not** be flushed down the toilet.

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| × Baby Wipes | × Rags |
| × Cleaning Wipes (<i>i.e. sanitizing wipes, Shop wipes, dusting wipes, mop heads</i>) | × Paper Towels |
| × Toilet Cleaning Scrubbers | × Feminine Hygiene Products |
| × Diapers | × Condoms |
| | × Large Food Scraps |

When the items listed above are flushed into the sewer system, they have a tendency to build up rather than break down, which causes clogs in area pipes and/or area pump stations. Responding to these problems is costly. System clogs can (and have) lead to sewer overflows, which pose a serious health risk to area residents and the environment.

The Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works asks that you do your part to eliminate these items from entering the sewer system and help reduce the occurrence of sewer system overflows in your area.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Sewer and Water Department at 508-660-7307.