

## Don't Rush to Flush



## Put trash in its place!

The Town's wastewater collection system or sewer system is comprised of a network of pipes and pumping stations that collect sewer from individual homes and businesses throughout our community. The pipes are arranged to allow the sewer to flow by gravity to a water reclamation facility. Given the lay of the land in our community, wastewater pumping stations are strategically installed to help move wastewater in low lying areas to the water reclamation facility.

Sewer systems face problems when trash and debris accumulate in pipes or in pumping stations. Excessive accumulations of trash and debris can lead to blockages and clogged pumps.

The toilet is the most common route in which trash and debris enters the sewer system. Some of the most common items found in the sewer system that do not belong include:

- Sanitary wipes (baby wipes, cleaning wipes, wet wipes, towelettes, acne pads)
- Paper towels (hand drying paper towels, tri-fold paper towels)
- Feminine hygiene products (sanitary napkins, applicators, wrappers)
- Dental floss
- Plastic bags

The Town would like to remind citizens and businesses not to use the toilet as a trash can and to place a wastebasket in bathrooms to dispose of trash.

### **What about products that are advertised as flushable?**

There are a number of personal hygiene and cleaning products on the market that are advertised as "flushable". In order to be compatible with sewer systems, flushable products must breakdown quickly like toilet paper and not accumulate in the system. Although these products are able to pass through the toilet, it is often difficult to predict how quickly these products breakdown and where accumulations may occur. Sanitary wipes, paper towels, and feminine hygiene products that do not break down quickly can accumulate and block pipes or clog pumping equipment.

Keeping "flushable" sanitary wipes and cleaning products out of the sewer system will help ensure that these products do not accumulate and contribute to costly sewer blockages and environmentally damaging overflows.