

Only Flush Toilet Paper!

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND SANITARY SEWER CUSTOMERS

Don't believe the hype that wipe will clog our system??

The items listed do not break down!

Anything other than what nature provides and toilet paper needs to be placed in the trash.

Please help us maintain function of our sanitary sewer system.

Flushable Wipes **ARE NOT FLUSHABLE!!**



According to the EPA, flushing only toilet paper helps ensure that the toilets, plumbing, sewer systems and septic systems will continue working properly to safely manage our nation's wastewater. While EPA encourages disinfecting your environment to prevent the spread of COVID-19, never flush disinfecting wipes or other non-flushable items.

- Preventable toilet and sewer backups can pose a threat to human health and an extra challenge to water utilities and their workforce.
- Flushing anything other than toilet paper, including disinfecting wipes, can damage internal plumbing, local sewer systems and septic systems. Fixing these backups is costly and takes time and resources away from ensuring that wastewater management systems are otherwise working properly.

If it is anything other than toilet paper, have a container, a bag or a waste basket or anything separate that you can put it in and dispose of it along with the other solid waste you are putting out on the curb.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
100 East First Street Box 1968
Grand Island, NE 68802-1968

Phone: 308-385-5430
E-mail: rachaels@grand-island.com

Stormwater
Pollution Prevention

Sump Pumps and Objects Other than Toilet Paper Cause Big Problems

This fact sheet provides basic information and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are recommended for :

- Residential Homes
- Apartment Complexes
- Commercial Businesses
- Industrial Facilities



Tel. 308-385-5430

Sump Pumps into the Sanitary Sewer Cause Big Problems!

In addition to the fact that connecting sump pumps to the sanitary sewer is illegal, it causes BIG problems!!

Sump pumps are designed to pump groundwater and rainwater. Sanitary sewer pipes are designed to carry sewage, **NOT** groundwater and rain water.

Usually, the sanitary sewer pipe in the street is only 8 inches in diameter, and often the pipe slope is not very steep. Many 8-inch sewer pipes are installed with a slope of 0.4%. This means that for every 100 feet of pipe, the pipe goes downhill less than 5 inches. This low slope condition is very common in Grand Island's sanitary sewer collection systems. As you can imagine, there is only so much sewage that can flow through this pipe.

For this size of sewer pipe, about 300 gallons of water can flow through it in a minute. If more sewage than this tries to get through the pipe in the street, the sewage will surcharge and start filling up the sewer lateral pipes that run to the sewer main from houses.

When this added sewage or extra water is sent to the sewer pipe, it will surcharge even more, eventually pushing back into someone's basement. The sewage might come out of a neighbor's basement toilet or washing machine drain for example. The result is a disgusting mess!

If hooked up to a house's sewer lateral, a half-horsepower sump pump will pump about 60 gallons to the sewer each minute. That means that if 5 pumps are connected to the sewer, it will be full. Normal sewage often flows in the sewer main more than halfway already. Therefore, if two or three neighbors in a block illegally connect their sump pumps to their sewer lateral, the flow that is trying to get through the sewer main may be more than its capacity of 300 gallons per minute. The sewage in the pipe will start backing up!

It is critical that sump pumps discharge to the yard or storm sewer, not to the sanitary sewer. It is illegal to connect your sump pump into your sanitary lateral, and it can cause serious problems!



Because it is illegal!

In Accordance with Grand Island City Code Chapter 30, Article IV. Lateral Sewers Section 30-23.

No person shall connect interior or exterior roof downspouts, interior or exterior foundation drains, areaway drains, or other sources of surface runoff or ground water to a lateral sewer or a building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.

The Public Works Director may inspect or cause to be inspected any residential, commercial and/or industrial facility for prohibited connections at any reasonable time.

Any cross-connection between a potable water supply and a sanitary sewer shall be prohibited.



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