



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 17, 2020

Contact: David Erickson, Wastewater Treatment Plant 715-261-6941
Katie Rosenberg, Mayor 715-261-6800

Reminder from the City Wastewater Treatment Plant

On May 15, 2020, the City of Wausau experienced a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) due to a blocked sanitary sewer line in the 3100 block of Westhill Drive. It was found that personal care wipes, rags and latex gloves plugged the sewer main. Wastewater was coming out of a manhole and draining across the street.

This is a good time to remind our community that personal care products are NOT flushable. Oftentimes the packaging reads that they are “flushable” but that is not the case. Baby wipes, personal care wipes, household cleaning wipes and feminine hygiene products need to go in the trash, not the toilet.

The City of Wausau wastewater staff frequently have to remove these products from sewer mains, valves, and pumps. Often, we need to call mechanics in after hours, even during the middle of the night. It is a dirty, time consuming, and expensive job. More importantly, it can flood basements with raw wastewater creating additional mess and expense, for the utility, our customers, you and your neighbors.

This is an unsanitary and a very undesirable situation. In the particular case on May 15th, the City was fortunate, due to the slope of the hill where this occurred, that the adjacent basements were not affected.

Attached is a simple poster defining what should not be flushed. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to avoid these problems in the future.

No Wipes Down the Pipes

Even if a product says it is “flushable”...

Unless it is toilet paper, it should not be flushed!

- Diapers (including cloth, cotton, disposable, or plastic)
- Flushable, disposable, cleaning, or baby wipes
- Paper towels, cloth towels, or any type of rag
- Feminine hygiene products
- Facial Tissues



Place the items listed above in a trash can

Putting these items down toilets may plug sewers and cause raw sewage to back up into YOUR HOME!

