



**CITY OF THE DALLES**  
Department of Public Works  
1215 West First Street  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE:** March 19, 2020

**TOPIC:** Reminder – Do not flush dirty wipes, throw them in the trash

**CONTACT:** City of The Dalles Public Works Department (541) 296-5401

**FOR RELEASE:** IMMEDIATELY

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### **Wipes Clog Pipes**

Citizens in The Dalles are joining the fight against the coronavirus which may include increased cleaning with disposable wipes. Unfortunately, wipes can clog sewer pipes and pumping systems and are the biggest cause of sewer backups in The Dalles. The last thing anyone needs right now is a sewer backup in their home or business. Removing clogs in a building's sewer pipe is the owner's responsibility.

### **Please do not flush dirty wipes, throw them in the trash**

Throwing dirty wipes in the trash instead of flushing will:

- Prevent expensive clogs in your home or business and in City sewer lines.
- Prevent water damage in your home or business.
- Prevent health hazards due to sewage overflow.

We are in this fight together. Please keep cleaning to fight the virus. But do not flush dirty wipes, throw them in the trash.

For more information about the impact of flushed wipes on the wastewater collections system go to [thedalles.org/wastewater](http://thedalles.org/wastewater) or call Public Works office at (541) 296-5401.

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--see attached picture (high resolution available upon request)--

HANG THIS POSTER IN YOUR BATHROOM AS A REMINDER OF WHAT NOT TO FLUSH.

Toilet paper and human waste are the only two things that should be flushed!

### DO NOT FLUSH THESE ITEMS



Cotton swabs & makeup pads

Tampons, maxi pads & their applicators/wrappers

Cleaning/Flushable Wipes

Paper towels and cloth towels

Diapers and Underwear

Removing **CLOGS** in your sewer pipe is your responsibility.

THE CITY CLEANS ABOUT **2 million gallons per day** before it goes into the Columbia River.

**100 MILES** of sewer lines are maintained by only 9 certified operators. The wastewater treatment plant has only 7 certified operators. Help avoid preventable clogs that take them away from other critical tasks. Help us clean up wastewater before it goes into sewer system. Think before you flush.



### WIPES CLOG PIPES

Wipes are the biggest cause of sewer backups in The Dalles. Even if the package says "flushable" they should NEVER be flushed. Put dirty wipes in the trash.