

Wipes clog pipes

Avoid sewer backups and protect your pipes!
Dispose of these items in the trash, NOT the toilet.

- Disinfecting wipes
- Baby wipes
- Towelettes
- Paper towels
- Facial tissues



COURTESY IMAGE

An educational graphic from the City illustrates what can and can't be disposed of through flushing.

Wipes from A1

stronger," he said.

Keeping the system free of such items is important, though, not just because of its inconvenience for treatment plant crew.

Under the right circumstances, the treatment plant at peak flow and plugged with foreign items could possibly put the city in a position where it has violated its Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permit.

Heavy rains like those seen this week have the potential strain a plugged a system.

"We need the capacity at the plant and the plant itself to be able to handle that kind of flow without having something blocking it," said Meyers.

By not flushing items that can't be treated, it will ensure the treatment plant can operate as designed and meet DEQ requirements.

Preventing violations of DEQ standards was one of the reasons behind the city's \$1.3 million upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant this past year.

Construction of berms for the storage of 12 million gallons of treated effluent will aid the plant's ability to refrain from heavy discharge.

Because discharge is limited to the Coast Fork of the Willamette River during the warm months of the year, the storage will give the city greater capacity to pump the stored effluent to the city's golf course, the I-5 interchange at exit 174 and various city parks.

Middlefield Golf Course, owned by the city, is currently used to

release effluent as irrigation. However, during rain, the city lacks a place to discharge other than the river.

Collecting foreign items in the wastewater system is an issue for more cities than just Cottage Grove, noted Meyers.

"The City of Springfield out of their wastewater treatment plant

made a State of Oregon seal a lot of stuff they'd collected from the wastewater system," he said.

The City of Cottage Grove has even seen a class ring and dentures come through the system, items which were returned to the owners.

Meyers noted that besides the city, residents can be massively inconvenienced by flushing the wrong thing down the pipes.

"Some of it is expensive for the citizens because they don't just plug

up our system, they plug up your home system, too," he said. "If you have a jagged pipe or you have a root, you have all kinds of things that can catch these. And once you've caught one, you catch more, and then you catch other stuff, and then you start catching grease."

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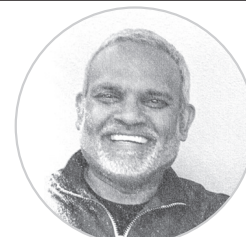


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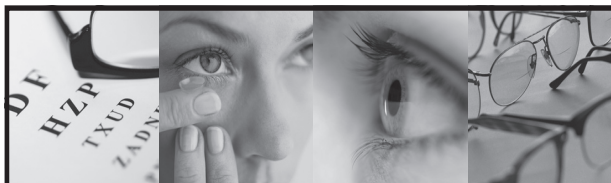
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